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March 21: the United Nations declared Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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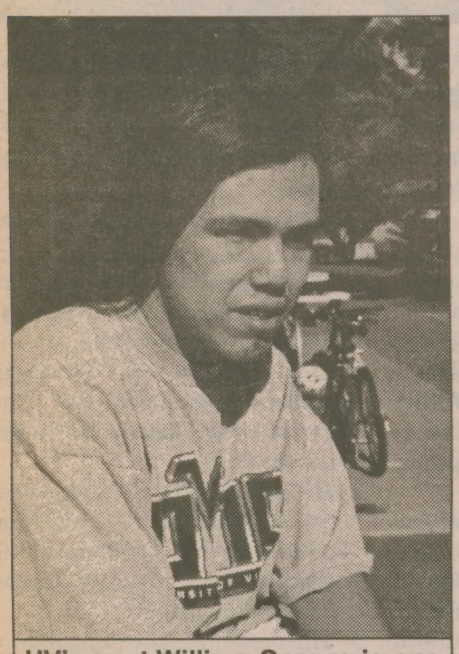
CHRYSLER CANADA

First Peoples' symposium offers creative twist

by Pam Graham

The second annual First Peoples' Student Symposium offers more than just academics. This year, the symposium will feature poet William George from UVic's writing department as one of five presenters with a creative twist.

George's work focuses on telling stories of his community, the Tsleil Waututh Nation (also known as the Burrard Indian Band) in a contemporary way through literature, specifically poetry.



UVic poet William George is one of five performers at this year's symposium.

Martlet photo by Mary Vallis

"Telling stories continues to be vital to our survival and to communicate with each other," said George of his work. "With our ever-changing connection to survival, we learn new tools. In my case, these tools are literary."

The theme for this year's symposium is "What is Indigenous Learning?"

The event, which showcases native students in the larger community, is being held today in Senate Chambers from noon to 4:00 p.m.

"My role in this is to add a creative breath to the proceedings," said George.

"This is the second symposium. The first one was pretty much all academic. [This year] there was some room for a creative presentation [so] I submitted and was accepted."

Anna Hunter, the event's coordinator and the Native Student Union's education co-counsel, describes the symposium as a way for the native community to "give [others] a chance to find out what work is happening and give support.

"[The symposium presents] what is currently going on in the community and what academics are writing about," said Hunter, who is a presenter herself from the Ktunaxa Nation. "[The symposium's theme was decided to make a link between studies that are not indigenous with those that are."

Hunter said that the students are presenting through five different disciplines, each one explaining what indigenous learning means to them.

Other presenters include Jewel Peters, Leane Kelly and Curtis Rattray.

Peters, a fourth-year political science student, is speaking about the treaty process in British Columbia, which she calls "an illusion of justice." Peters is Sto:lo and a member of the Seabird Island Band.

Kelly, who works for Cowichan Tribes in Duncan as a community health nurse and is also pursuing a master's degree, is speaking about her "phenomenological study examining the lived experience of aboriginal women who have received what is stated to be 'culturally-sensitive care.'"

Kelly is a Metis woman from Saskatchewan.

Rattray, a third-year political science and environmental studies student, is speaking on indigenous art, philosophies, beliefs and values, and the relationship to political and land-use systems.

Rattray is a member of the Tahltan Nation.

Each student presenting at the symposium is working with professors from the English department, political science, women's studies and anthropology departments, as well as UVic's new indigenous governance program.

Fair addresses global concerns

by Miguel Mcdonald

Staring out of a booth in the SUB this week during the Human Rights Fair is the picture of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, a young Tibetan boy. Under his picture are the words, "The World's Youngest Prisoner."

The boy in the picture is Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's most senior Lama, second only to the Dalai Lama. Panchen Lama disappeared in 1995 along with his family and 50 of their supporters shortly after the Dalai Lama had announced Gendun Choekyi Nima to be the 10th reincarnation of Panchen Lama. Panchen Lama has reportedly been a political prisoner of the government of the People's Republic Of China since he was six. He will be 10 years old on April 25th.

"There are such appalling things happening, and people don't even know about them," said Treya Putt of the Free Tibet movement.

Free Tibet and other groups fighting for improved human rights practices around the world set up booths in the SUB this week to raise awareness of human rights abuses around the world.

Other groups involved were Amnesty International and Stop the Violence in Chiapas.

Putt said that she wants the fair to promote awareness for Tibet's cause and encourage people to get involved and to care about something beyond themselves.

"Look beyond your own life. You can get a lot from helping other people," she said.

Her display featured pamphlets about the movement as well as forms to petition the Canadian government to "act decisively in condemning the government of the People's Republic of China." Another list of signatures petitions the Canadian federal government to renew their debate on the status of Tibet.

According to Putt, the international community ignores the atrocities of the state in the People's Republic of China in an effort not to upset the Chinese government. One of her information pamphlets lists some of the effects of China's influence on Tibet including massacres, genocide, tortures and forced sterilizations.

The fair's purpose was to address human rights concerns all over the world, and at the table next to the Tibet exhibit, Susan Chelini ran a booth on behalf of a movement for aboriginal rights in Mexico.

In February 1995, the Mexican government signed a peace accord with the Zapatista Army (EZLN) in which the government made eight promises to the indigenous people of Mexico. The agreement touched on areas such as employment and production, education and promotion of indigenous culture, and political participation for the indigenous people of Mexico.

According to Chelini, the Mexican government broke its word and none of the promises were ever implemented. She pointed to a petition aimed at pushing for a vote in which Mexicans would be asked five questions including whether or not they agree that the indigenous people of Mexico should participate in the construction of Mexico, that Mexico should be demilitarized, and that the rights of the indigenous people of Mexico should be protected.

Chelini encourages Mexicans living in Canada to sign the petition.

A second petition gave non-Mexicans a chance to speak up for the cause. She encourages students to go to the legislature grounds on March 21 at 1:00 pm for a rally in support of this cause. The rally, named the International Day for the Excluded, is to be a part of the celebration for the Day of the Elimination of Racism.

"We're all connected. We all have a role in the oppression of people in the world," she said.

The Human Rights Fair events carried on outside the SUB as well. Amnesty International set up a quasi-jail by the McPherson Library on March 16 and 17. To raise funds for Amnesty, students and members of Amnesty were "imprisonned" until a sum of money was collected to free them. Mock charges were pressed against the students. Kate Fagan of the Interfaith Chaplain Services was imprisoned for her "religious beliefs" and raised $30. None of the volunteers were imprisoned for more than an hour.

The Human Rights Fair was a cornucopia of events, both serious and celebratory.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

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(SEE PAGE 8)

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Royal astronomer coming to campus

by Tiffany Poirier

Whether it was a Big Bang or a little dribble, the question will never tire, where did we come from?

A leading figure in modern astronomy, Sir Martin Rees, a research professor from England's Cambridge University, will explore this question and many others on March 20 at UVic during his lecture titled: "Back to the Beginning: Understanding our Universe."

The lecture, which includes an extensive slide presentation, is tailored for the non-specialists.

"Martin Rees is a wonderful speaker with an inspirational way of integrating ideas about our universe and making them accessible to everyone," said Dr. Anne Gower, professor of physics and astronomy.

Accessibility isn't an accident for Rees, who is also the director of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy. He says that the goal of his lecture is to make these complex cosmic ideas understandable.

"Since so much is still a mystery, often the expert is just as baffled as the lay person," he said.

Recent advances in technology are uncovering mysteries about the universe and its origins, and Rees' lecture will make clear their impact. One example is a new telescope that sees further into space and, ultimately, further back in time.

"Because light takes so long to reach us, when we see distant galaxies we actually see them as they were billions of years ago. We are seeing how our own galaxy probably began," he said.

This lecture is not the first example of Rees catering to those who don't understand the more esoteric avenues of astronomy. He's also written a book titled *Before the Beginning* that explores the idea of parallel universes and is written in language that can be understood by all.

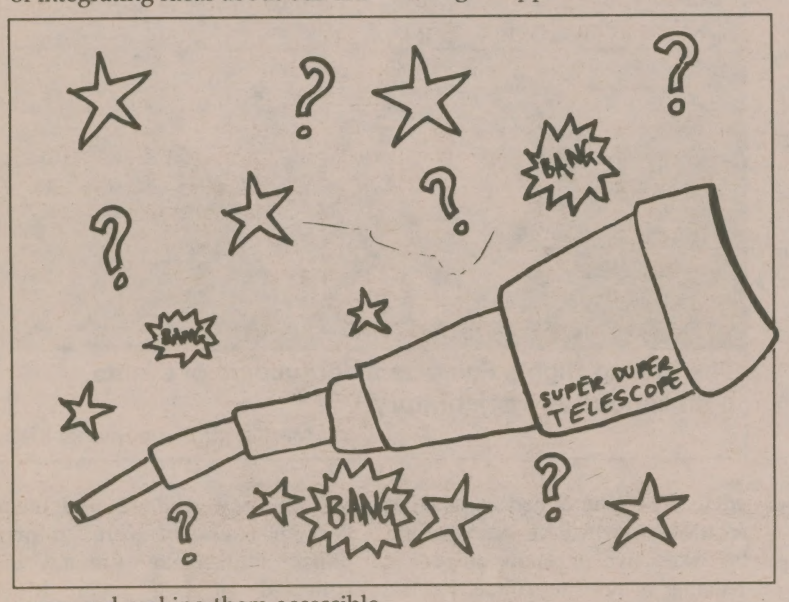
"I believe that what we call our universe is not everything there is," Rees said of the topic. "There may have been other Big Bangs."

In the last 30 years Rees has produced other works as well as being appointed the 15th Astronomer Royal by Queen Elizabeth.

Despite his accomplishments, Rees has been able to keep his head out of the cosmos.

"One lesson that I've learned is that we shouldn't think of humans as the culmination," he said. "Considering these enormous time spans show us that humans are just a stepping-stone along the way."

Dr. Rees will speak Saturday, March 20 at 8 p.m. in the University Centre, Farquar Auditorium.



UVic students mourn the loss of endangered species: memorial

by Joel Casselman

People walking near UVic's Petch Fountain on Friday may have thought that they had stumbled across a burial ceremony. A small but dedicated band of individuals clad in mourning attire held what looked like a funeral or memorial.

And that's exactly what it was. But this was a memorial service for B.C.'s endangered species, rather than a service for an individual or a specific group of persons.

"[Friday was] the national day of action for youth on endangered species across Canada," said Michelle Laurie of Victoria's Sierra Youth Coalition, who hosted the memorial.

"We felt that Victoria should do something; B.C. is the most [ecologically] diverse province."

According to the coalition, five species have become extinct in B.C. Another 345 are considered either endangered or threatened, while a further 460 are considered vulnerable.

The Sierra Club estimates that 80 per cent of all Canadian species which are endangered, threatened or vulnerable are facing their predicament because of the loss or fragmentation of their habitat.

At present, neither the provincial nor the federal governments have legislation designed to protect endangered species.

The United States has had similar legislation through its Endangered Species Act for over 25 years, and even Mexico has comparable legislation.

Although the turnout was small, the newly formed UVic chapter of the Sierra Youth Coalition says their memorial for endangered species was a success. The group says the memorial is the first in a series of awareness-raising events that will be held on campus.

Martlet photo by Joel Casselman

The B.C. government has no intention of developing such legislation and acknowledges that its recent "Identified Wildlife Management Strategy" cannot be considered to be a form of protective legislation.

Two years ago, the federal government issued Bill C-65, the goal of which was to implement endangered species legislation. This proposal later died due to several flaws and weaknesses.

The memorial was held by members of VIPIRG's Ecocentric and the Sierra Youth Coalition.

Similar memorial events took place in other major cities across Canada.

While services in other cities recorded a larger attendance, the attendance of mourners at the Victoria service was small in number. Organizers of the Victoria event blame this on the bad weather.

An education and awareness evening will also be held from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on March 25 in Classroom Building C108, hosted by the Sierra Club.

The presentation will include a presentation and slide show hosted by the Sierra Club, a speaker about marine bio-diversity from UVic's biology department, and a final speaker about endangered species legislation.

Sweater shenanigans

True to his word, UVSS election candidate James Rowe put on quite a show last Thursday when he burned the sweater he promised to wear every day if elected to the students' society Board of Directors.

Rowe came in dead last in the election race, losing the seat by a mere 42 votes.

When the sweater-burning ceremony got out of hand, Rowe kicked the flaming mess into Petch fountain, then waded in to fish out the remains. He carried the scorched remains of the sweater around with him for the remainder of the day.

Rowe is contemplating running for a seat again next March.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

On the Spot

Do you think there is racism at UVic?

Nick Peckham, Arbutus Secondary student

"Yes, racism is everywhere."

Michael Weldon, 2nd-year physics

"I haven't seen any myself, but that's just visible racism. It could be underneath, and people just don't know about it."

Steve Lindell, 6th-year biology

"Yeah. Racism is bad."

Elena Temple, 1st-year anthropology

"Yeah. I guess there's mostly separation, not intermingling...and that breeds racism, I guess."

Jeffrey Wong, Law exchange student

"I do think it's very manifest at UVic, but racism is a social reality, I think."

Community's responsibility for racism awareness

by Sarah Glen

Racism is a global disease affecting human hearts worldwide–a disease that can only be cured with education and awareness. This was the message of Ms. Souna Fanayan, President of the United Nations Association, speaking at Monday's "Racism in Victoria: What is Our Community's Responsibility?" panel.

The panel kicked off seven days of community-based awareness campaigns to eliminate racism in Victoria. The event will culminate with a noon-hour march and rally on Sunday March 21–the UN International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racism.

"Racism first takes root in the minds of the individual," said Fanayan. "We must endeavour to change the beliefs and attitudes of each individual to reach true racial equality."

The Committee for Awareness of UN Agreements, which hosted the forum, was called into action by the upcoming UN International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Canada's recent ratification of the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The convention, though praised as a step-forward in the elimination of racism, was chastized by Monday night's panelists for its use of lofty language and lack of immediate implementation into community policy.

"The international governments have pledged themselves to this cause," said Dr. Joan Russow, panelist and representitive for the Global Compliance Project. "But they still do nothing. We must demand this rhetoric be changed to action."

But that change comes slowly and is weighted down by bureaucratic red-tape, said Mrs. Harinder Dillon, panelist and local anti-racism activist.

"We must bring a human face to racism," said Dillon. "Those who live with racsim every day don't live in lofty words and mounds of governmental papers."

An emotional plea from an audience member named Kea showed that "human face" to the panel and demonstrated the need for change in racism policy in Victoria.

"I came here to live a peaceful life, not brutal life," said Kea, who described the ritual of police abuse he has endured because of his Latin-American background.

"I'm not a drug dealer or pimp -I'm just a guy trying to survive," said Kea.

With racism survivors like Kea in mind, the committee drafted a tentative "document of action," outlining proposals ranging from anti-racism educational packages for elementary and primary schools to the development of an organization to help racism survivors express their concerns directly to the municipal government.

"Doing something, anything, against racism empowers people the way nothing else can," said panelist Dr. Saul Arbess. "We've got to embrace the concept of unity in order to have change."

Pacific Asian studies students Sonia Woodcock and Samantha Rubin spend time behind bars. UVic's chapter of Amnesty International set up the Human Rights Cage March 16 and 17 in front of the Petch Fountain to raise money for people around the world who suffer rights violations at the hands of their governments.

Woodcock and Rubin posed as Malasian Nike sweatshop workers and were not let out of their prison until donations made by UVic students reached $40.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

Posters draw strong reaction

by Darren Stewart

A cross-campus postering campaign that was intended to draw attention to racism and the anti-racist movement is causing some heated discussion in the campus community. The display includes a comment space for reactions, and according to the event coordinator Parveen Kaur Nijjar, the strong reaction the display received was exactly what organizers were hoping for.

There are about 20 displays around campus, and each of them has been filled with negative and positive comments reacting to the posters and with comments about the previously written comments. One of the displays in the Clearihue Building was ripped down entirely.

"Even if the posters are getting negative comments, at least we're establishing a dialogue," said Kaur Nijjar, who works with the Women's Centre in the Student Union Building. "We were wanting to get a response from the campus."

"Even if the posters are getting negative comments, at least we're establishing a dialogue"

One poster that has prompted a backlash begins with the statement, "No person of colour can be a reverse racist as long as white people maintain power."

Kaur Nijjar suggests that some people feel threatened by the messages on the boards, which include a factual history of the anti-racism movement, bills and customs laws deemed racist, and quotes and comments surrounding the issue.

According to Kaur Nijjar, another display will be erected with the comments and discussions that took place on the bill-boards. She expects letters to be written to *the Martlet* and people to get involved in the bulletin board discussion on the Equity Office's website that will cover the event and its backlash.

"This way, we get a response and a response to the response," said Kaur Nijjar. "It's a powerful way of getting the message across."

The event sponsors include the UVSS, the Equity Office, the Women's Centre and the UVic coalition against racism.

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Liberals consider appeal of Elections Act

by Alex Bustos
and Krishna Lalbiharie

OTTAWA (CUP)—In an ironic twist worthy of Shakespeare, the Communist Party of Canada has become the hero of bourgeois liberal democrats across the country by convincing an Ontario Court judge to declare certain sections of the federal elections act unconstitutional.

Justice Anne Molloy, of Ontario Court general division, ruled March 11 that the law—which disbands any political party unable to run at least 50 candidates in a general election —violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"[This decision is] not only a sweet victory for our party and a vindication of what we have gone through," CPC leader Miguel Figueroa told a Parliament Hill news conference Tuesday. "It's also a victory for all small parties who have had to face the discrimination and the draconian aspects of the Canada Elections Act."

"This is clearly not in the public interest to have these kind of rules exist. They are very discriminatory. They are very anti-democratic."

Introduced in 1993 in the last days of Brian Mulroney's government, the sections of the election act in question allowed the government to confiscate the assets of any disbanded political party. The amendments received only 15 minutes of debate in the House of Commons and were supported by all five parties.

For the CPC, which could only muster eight candidates in the 1993 federal election, the act meant the loss of its official party status and the forceful liquidation of its small fiscal reserves, about $1,113.

The 1993 election also saw the elimination of the Parti Rhinoceros, the right-wing Social Credit Party of Canada and the Confederation of Regions Western Party.

Despite the Ontario Court's ruling, Ottawa isn't changing its tune just yet.

Minister of State Don Boudria told Canadian University Press he's considering appealing Molloy's ruling.

"We think the government's original position is correct, and we're studying whether we will appeal all, most or some of the aspects of Justice Molloy's ruling," he said.

"The issue of seizure of assets is appropriate because taxpayers partly subsidize these assets," added Boudria.

The requirement of at least 50 nominations is also reasonable and justifiable, he said.

The federal government has until mid-April to challenge the ruling. But Figueroa says the Liberals' defence of the defeated sections of the act is irrational.

"The vast majority of small parties, including the CPC, do not receive funding from the public space," he said.

"If anything, it's the larger political parties that receive millions of dollars in funds directly in terms of expense remuneration for election campaigns."

Opposition parties also attacked the Grits for considering an appeal.

"This has gone far enough," said New Democratic Party MP Libby Davies.

"This is clearly not in the public interest to have these kind of rules exist. They are very discriminatory. They are very anti-democratic."

Reform Party MP Ted White, also present at the news conference along with Green Party spokesman Richard Briggs, said he wouldn't be surprised if the government appealed the ruling.

"Unfortunately, the present government has a history of appealing these sorts of decisions all the way to the Supreme Court, even when they know that something's wrong," White said.

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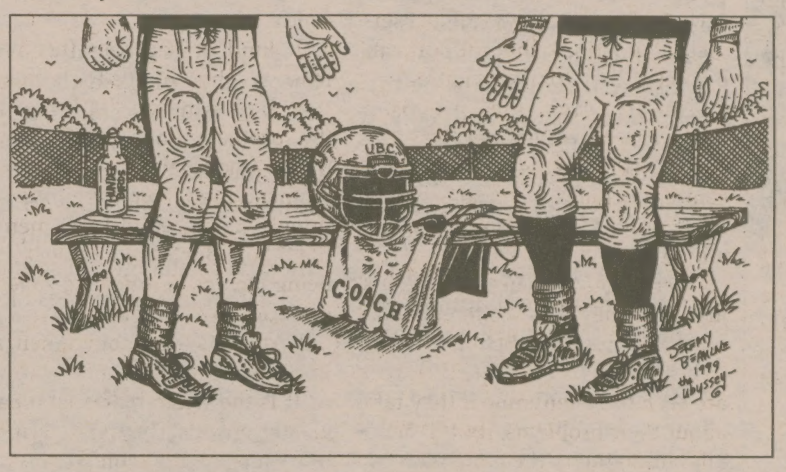
Coach offers resignation following bar brawl: UBC athletics in limbo

by Douglas Quan
the Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The head football coach at the University of British Columbia has offered to resign after an early-morning brawl involving two of his assistants last week.

Dave Johnson, 33, handed a letter of resignation to UBC's athletics department after last Thursday's altercation, said athletics director Bob Philip.



While the department hasn't officially responded to Johnson's letter, Philip said he guesses "that the leaning would be towards accepting it." He said an announcement about Johnson's future is expected later this week.

Last Thursday's incident left assistant coach Noel Thorpe with two broken ribs, a broken nose and two black eyes. Stu Masi, acting offensive line coach, also received minor injuries in the fight at a campus pizzeria.

Employees at the eatery refused to comment about the altercation, which occurred around 1 a.m., or to explain why the men were still in the restaurant when it normally closes at 11 p.m.

Last week, Philip suspended Johnson indefinitely with pay, preventing the head coach from participating in the rest of training camp, which ended this weekend.

Johnson, who recently signed a three-year contract with UBC, did not return *the Ubyssey's* calls Monday. Philip said Johnson was out of town.

The RCMP is investigating the incident and will decide whether to lay charges within a week, Staff Sgt. Lloyd Plante said Monday.

Thorpe declined to discuss the incident other than to say "there was no fight," and Masi did not return *the Ubyssey's* calls.

Meanwhile, athletics officials and team members said a change in coaching staff could hamper ongoing recruitment efforts.

"It's certainly not the time of the year that we'd choose to make a coaching change," said Philip.

Quarterback Shawn Olson agrees, saying uncertainty surrounding the coaching staff will make it difficult for some recruits to decide whether they want to attend UBC.

But he said current team members will be calling recruits over the next few weeks to tell them "it will still be very much the same team, with some good veteran leadership."

Still, Olson said he regrets the prospect of losing Johnson as a coach. "Under coach Johnson we were definitely headed in the right direction."

Johnson was hired as UBC football's defensive co-ordinator prior to the 1997 Vanier Cup season. When then-head coach Casey Smith was diagnosed with liver cancer last June, he chose Johnson to take the reins as interim head coach for the 1998 season.

PC youth say expulsion unrelated to United Alternative

by Andrew Simpson
Atlantic Bureau Chief

HALIFAX (CUP)—Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservative youth association says the ousting of its president and two other members had nothing to do with the fact they attended February's United Alternative convention.

The province's young Tories wanted to set the record straight last week after controversy erupted over the expulsions.

Brad Wells, interim president of the association, says the leadership of former president Paul Barnes was in question even before he attended the convention in Ottawa.

The decision to revoke his membership was "the result of cumulative concern over our executive's leadership," Wells said last Thursday.

"We are not on a United Alternative witch hunt, and we did not revoke any youth memberships based on attendance at the United Alternative."

"We are not on a United Alternative witch hunt, and we did not revoke any youth memberships based on attendance at the United Alternative."

Wells also insisted that Kevin Lacey and Clinton Desveaux, the two other members who attended the convention, weren't kicked out of the association.

But Barnes says his participation in the historic United Alternative meeting has everything to do with why he was given the boot.

"Whatever they're saying about me now is their way of deflecting criticism from a decision that has blown up in their face," the Acadia University student said.

Barnes points to the motion to revoke his membership as proof. It contains eight references to the proposed right-wing merger between the federal PC and Reform parties.

And despite the association's denial, Lacey says his PC youth membership was revoked. Like Barnes, he too says it was because of his support for the United Alternative.

"Rather than admit a mistake, they've concocted these stories," said Lacey, a Dalhousie University student. "It doesn't make any sense."

Barnes and Lacey say they're disappointed by the fact federal Tory leader Joe Clark and provincial leader John Hamm haven't condemned the expulsions.

Clark has made clear that his party opposes the United Alternative.

"This is a bad message to send to party members putting partisan flag-waving ahead of principles," Barnes said.

Meanwhile, Lacey has written to Clark asking whether people who attended the United Alternative convention are still welcome in the PC party. He has yet to receive a response.

"I guess he's mulling it over."

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Critics denounce proposed men's centre at U of Regina

by Sheri Block
the Carillon

REGINA (CUP)—A University of Regina student wants to establish a men's centre on campus, and while he's already received the blessing of the women's centre in his unconventional endeavour, critics say the idea stinks.

Karry Schmidt says the idea for a men's centre came to him as he was writing an essay about the necessity of a campus women's centre. When he questioned why there isn't a comparable meeting and educational space on campus for men, he says, he was upset by the response he received.

"The director of the women's centre was telling me about the services they offer, and apparently they do a lot of good for the women in the university," said Schmidt.

But when Schmidt asked why there isn't a men's centre on campus, he was told there's no need for one because every campus bar is a men's centre.

"That kind of made me upset," said Schmidt. "In fact, places like that aren't really a men's centre, and that sort of stereotypes every male of going to the bar and acting like an idiot."

So the student decided to try to drum up support for a campus men's centre—or, at least, a centre that would apply to both men and women equally.

Tammy Wagner, co-ordinator of U of R's women's centre, says she supports the initiative.

"If they feel there's a need for it and they can find support, if it's not just a backlash against the women's centre, I'm all in support of it, and I think everyone else is too," Wagner said.

But Wagner says men's needs could be met by her centre. "I'm in favour of men having support services, but I think this support can be met at the women's centre."

Schmidt says the proposed men's centre would offer the same sort of services as the women's centre, including a space where male students can simply come and talk.

"Men do have issues as well, it's just that they'd be different than women's issues," Schmidt said. "There's a big stereotype that men are seen to be feminine if they talk about their problems, [but] it actually strengthens their masculinity to realize that they do have problems," he added.

The centre would also be open to women so that both sexes could work together to improve gender relations, Schmidt said.

"One of the big things we'd support is men and women actively working to achieve equality," said Schmidt. "The real vision that we have is to convert the Women's Centre into a university centre." But while Schmidt espouses equality between the sexes, he also insists women are taking away rights from men.

"The feminists of this age have gotten pretty much all that they've asked for politicall. Now when they fight for things all they are [doing] is taking away more rights from men," he said.

Education issues co-ordinator Jaime Reban disagrees and says she doesn't see a need for a men's centre on campus.

"It kind of degrades the many reasons why we need a women's centre," Reban said. "It diminishes the problem, the specific issues that women have to deal with as women. Men aren't fighting for things like pay equity, and men on the whole don't have to deal with being victims of domestic violence or issues like body image."

Reban says men, not women, are in a dominant position in society.

"It is the white males who have all the power...They still earn the most money. It's women who are in poverty. It's women who have to suffer all the different kinds of violence against them. A men's centre kind of spits in the face of all those issues and demeans them."

Schmidt says this is not his intent.

"I'm not woman-bashing in any way," said Schmidt. "The last thing I want to do is hurt women's rights I just want it to be equal."

UBC commerce students vote in favour of tuition hike

by Sarah Galashan
the Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Undergraduate commerce students at the University of British Columbia voted in favour of a $250 increase in their tuition last week.

The proposed fee hike was put to a referendum after students raised concern that UBC's business program isn't as competitive as programs at other Canadian schools.

"Unfortunately, there are students who can't pay for it and are not willing to pay for it."

"At Queen's [University] students are plugging in their laptops in their classrooms, and that's how they learn," said Irfhan Rawji, a representative in the university's Commerce Undergraduate Society.

"That's the leading edge, and that's what [commerce] wants to see, and that's how you get jobs."

Bright orange signs posted throughout UBC's commerce building last week read: "The tuition freeze is killing our quality of education. It's time we do something to change that fact!"

Slightly more than 20 per cent of eligible voters took part in the two-day referendum that was sponsored by the Commerce Undergraduate Society. Sixty-two per cent voted to pay the tuition fee increase.

The new fee will be channeled through the Commerce Undergraduate Society, which plans to use the new funds to improve student space, add employees to its career centre and increase the number of computers.

The additions are necessary to make the program competitive with other Canadian schools, said Rawji.

"It's to improve our profile. It's to improve our reputation, to allow students to have further academic opportunities that they can't afford right now," he said.

The fee increase will appear in next year's course calendar with the stipulation that it must first receive approval from the university's board of governors.

"We're assuming it will go through at this point," said Byron Hender from the office of the vice-president of student and academic services.

Some student leaders are worried commerce students may be sending the wrong message to the province that all UBC students are willing to pay higher tuition.

"Unfortunately, there are students who can't pay for it and are not willing to pay for it," said Nathan Allen, external affairs co-ordinator with UBC's main student union, the Alma Mater Society.

"It [the vote] sort of subverts what we are working towards. This definitely hurts our efforts in trying to push for [a continued tuition freeze]," Allen said.

While the commerce program may be cash-strapped, he added, additional funds shouldn't come at the expense of students.

High school students support striking staff

by Carla Tonelli
the Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—As support staff at Toronto's public schools head into their third week on strike, a growing number of students are trading in their textbooks for pickets in a show of support for the employees.

The staff members who run operations for the Toronto District School Board, including caretakers, administrative assistants, lunch supervisors and special-needs workers, have been on strike since Feb. 27. Negotiations between the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which represents the workers, and the board are ongoing.

The workers are pushing for a wage increase and other contract improvements. They also oppose the provincial government's proposed changes to Ontario's education system that would see 4,358 education-worker jobs eliminated by 2002 and a wage rollback after 8.5 years of a pay freeze.

So far, at least 20 schools across the city have been shut down as a result of the strike, while other schools are feeling its effects as washrooms go uncleaned and concerned parents pull their kids out of class.

Increasingly, high-school students are throwing their support behind the strikers. Last week, about 150 students demonstrated in front of the board of education's downtown offices to protest its role in implementing the changes.

"It's important for the board to know that students are behind support staff," said Mika Lior, a Grade 12 student in Toronto's westend.

"It's ridiculous that the board and the province are saying they are putting students first. We're the students, and we support support staff, so why don't they put that concern first?"

Grade nine student Simone Swail agreed. "The Mike Harris government keeps trying to cut us back," she said. "It's just getting worse and worse."

Many students drew connections between rising university tuition fees in Ontario and the support-staff strike.

"Our moms and dads need a decent fair wage so they can afford to send us [to university]," said Simon Turnbull, a Grade 12 student whose mother is one of the CUPE employees on strike.

Earl Manners, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, says the presence of students and teachers on the picket lines shows the public that the entire education system is at risk.

He also condemned the Progressive Conservative government's emphasis on improving classroom experience at the expense of support staff.

"This strike proves the whole school is a classroom," Manners said. "We believe in an educational team, and it takes a whole team to provide a good education."

But the government insists changes to support staff levels are necessary to maintain the quality of education.

"Everything that's being done is with the goal of putting more money in the classroom," said Rob Savage, press secretary for Education Minister Dave Johnson.

"I think we recognize that support staff are important . . . We believe it's better to concentrate our dollars on teachers and resources than unnecessary administration," he added.

"It's ridiculous that the board and the province are saying they are putting students first. We're the students, and we support support staff, so why don't they put that concern first?"

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EDITORIAL

Racism sucks. So stop being so racist, even if you don't know it, chump.

March 21 is the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. So what?

Well, honouring this day is more crucial than ever, even though it may seem like anti-racism work is needed less and less. Why is it assumed that there is no more work to be done? Because women, people of colour and First Nations people get to vote now. Some of them have jobs too. In fact, there was even an 'Oriental girl' on *Friends!* Now that's progressive.

See, racism is not something that is impending upon Canada, it is not something that is "coming," it is something that is already here and exists. There is no urgency in the anti-discrimination movement, because people believe on a mainstream level that racism no longer exists.

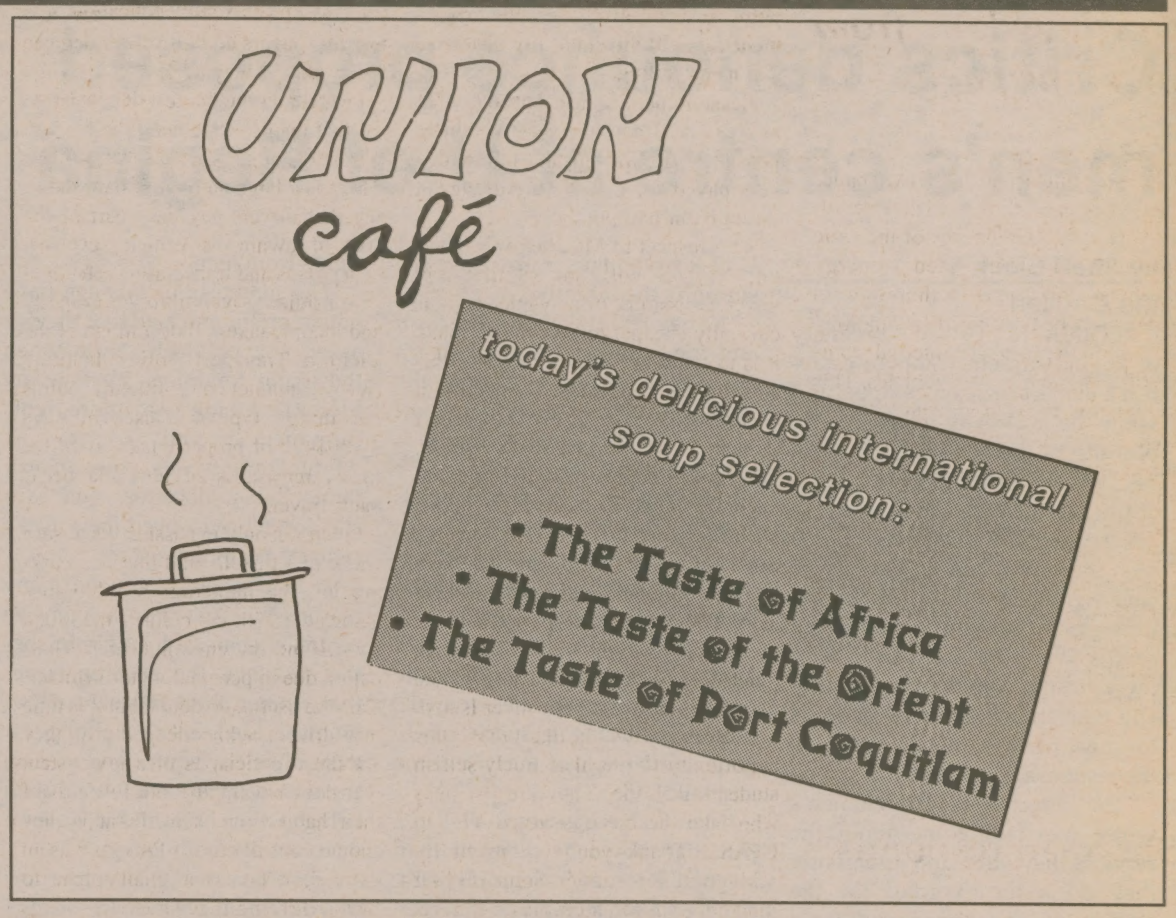
It seems that now that we have multicultural days and those lucky people of colour get to set up their tents from around the world, do their dances and serve their food, it is assumed that this sort of "ethnotainment" is a form of "acceptance" and part of the Canadian mosaic. But when people take these multicultural days and associate persons of colour with exactly what the international food fair is offering, persons of colour become reduced to food and dance, which is in itself a dangerous thing. This is not to say that culture-sharing is a bad thing.

Basically, we shouldn't need a day specifically for anti-racism initiatives. The world shouldn't be so fucked that there are racists and assholes and cruelty and discrimination and human rights abuses and war and all other shit things. But since there are such things, let's try to do something about it. Let's not live in our mainstream bubbles. Let's educate ourselves even further.

The hardest question is where to begin, as it is so easy to turn your cheek and flip on top-forty radio and go to Hollywood movies and vote Liberal. But why the hell do you want to live normally? It's time to fuck the status quo and make a difference. Let's support each other in our causes, build numbers among us, and through these numbers, educate through various projects: alternative news sources, video, radio, petitions, rallies, lectures, zines, rock shows, whatever. Cause it's goddamn boring being so straight.

And on March 21, come out to rally against racism at Centennial Square. Drag your ass out of bed; it starts at noon.

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings and are written by one or more staff members. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of all staff.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LETTERS

U-Pass fights on

Editors,

I am writing with regard to the comments by Anita Zaenker in the article "Unofficial" ...' (Mar 11 issue of the Martlet). Anita refers to the students who voted on the U-Pass in the Engineering and Classroom Buildings:

"They have a user-fee mentality. They don't support green initiatives or universal programs."

I am in engineering and I, with many others in my class, resent such ignorant and unsubstantiated comments.

The reason I voted NO for the U-Pass was because the whole proposal was based on flawed logic. I ride a bike to school every day. I never drive or take a bus to school. So if you want to talk 'green', I'm even more green than the self-righteous bus riders in the UVSS senate. If the real issue was saving the world by getting people out of their cars and onto the bus then the referendum question should have been: "Should parking pass fees be increased to subsidize bus passes?" This would have left those who walk and ride bikes out of the issue. If it were not the dipshits in the UVSS, I'd be surprised at how that detail was overlooked.

Another thing: Maybe Anita could read the article on Ballard Power - the company that is making the pollution free busses (same issue of the Martlet). Who the hell do you think is making those pollution-free busses? A bunch of sociologists and philosophers? No, it's engineers. I worked at Ballard last year, and I can tell you that people with engineering and business backgrounds comprise the vast majority of that company.

So if you really want to stereotype, maybe you should say that the real reason engineering and business students voted NO, was that they used their own brains to make the decision and didn't give in to the UVSS's one-sided propaganda. Or, maybe you should say that the reason was that engineering and business students are going to graduate with earning potential, and aren't looking for a free ride.

—Greig Walsh

For the record

Editors,

In no way should my comments regarding the way students voted on the UPASS have been attributed only to students who voted in the Classroom Building or the Engineering Wing. The user-fee mentality and lack of support for green initiatives or universal programs was evident in the No votes cast in all polling stations across campus. In fact, the UPASS results proved that it is difficult to form stereotypes around the transportation choices students make.

It's a shame that *the Martlet* didn't dedicate more copy to this year's election. It was the single largest demonstration of student participation in the democratic process at UVic, and reflects a great deal of thought, debate, and interest in the issues. The high turnout at UVic has inspired student elections at colleges and universities across the country. Years from now, when people do research on how the UPASS got started, it's too bad they won't be able to turn to *the Martlet* for a complete picture.

—Anita Zaenker

UVSS Director of Academics

More on the pass that passed...

Editors,

I am writing in response to Anita Zaenker's comments regarding the majority of "no" votes coming from the Classroom Building and ELW polling stations. Ms. Zaenker's comments were that, "They have a user-fee mentality ... They don't support green initiatives or universal programs."

continued on next page

The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavor to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be TYPEWRITTEN, submitted on disk or e-mailed and include your name and phone number for verification. LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM. Letters will be reviewed for libel at *the Martlet* editorial meeting on the week of publication. Deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by the order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Letters may be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, V8W 3P3, dropped off at SUB B011 or emailed to martlet@uvic.ca

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continued from previous page

I find it quite ironic that two pages later, there is a full-page article detailing fuel cells, and the role of the Uvic Institute for Integrated Energy Systems. Fuel cell technology is expected to be the "green" technology that could replace the internal combustion engine of motor vehicles. This technology is a prominent area of Uvic research, and is performed by students who voted at the ELW station.

As for User-fees and Universal programs - these students share the same views as the other 1/3 of the voters. Why should someone be forced to pay $88 a year for a service not related to education, and for one that they will not use?

—Daryl Brodie

Sherman responds

Editors,

This morning, as I read *the Martlet*, I was annoyed by a comment made by Anita Zaenker with regard to the mentality of UVic's engineering students. She articulated a stereotype that engineering students are environmental terrorists.

I am an engineering students and as such voted NO to the UPASS as did many of my colleages because we felt that UPASS is a bad deal. As engineering students, we seem to be more difficult to mislead and or "BULLSHIT" by the UVSS.

We saw the UPASS as a money grab—exactly what it is? The UVSS doesn't want to tell anyone where the surplus revenue generated by implementing the UPASS (somewhere in the neighborhood of $800,000 per year) is going. I expect that a large portion of these funds will be absorbed by the UVSS, hence their over zealous support of the YES campaign.

The UPASS referendum was in no way bipartisan. Any signage posted that revealed the "truths" of the UPASS were immediately torn down so that voters could be easily mislead that UPASS was a "good" deal for every one. The UPASS is not such a great deal for those who have to ride 58 minutes to go on a 7 km trip to UVic. UVic is not accessible from some areas of Victoria.

With respect to Mr. Laronde's rebuttal to my letter last week, it sure shows of one's inability to argue a point successfully when the arguement turns to attacking my character and name calling.

Please remember Mr. Laronde, that as a driver, I pay to park my vehicle here at UVic. Myself and fellow drivers payed for that extra parking lot through our parking fees.

With respect to Mr. Harvey's rebuttal, UPASS will not significantly lower emissions from vehicles. It is currently cheaper to take transit thank it is to drive to UVic. It has been this way for over 20 years. By making it cheaper still to take the bus won't reduce traffic on Victoria's streets. People will continue to drive until it becomes more expensive to do so. Victoria's transit busses are powered by diesel engines. Diesel engines have NO anti pollution equiptment or them as do 90% of cars and light trucks on the road. Cars in Victoria produce much less pollution than any of the many pulp mills on Vancouver Island.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to reveal to truely selfish students at UVic. They are the ones who take the bus and voted YES to UPASS. Thank you very much for asking me to further support your mode of transportation. As a tax payer in this province, I all ready support BC transit, now as a UVic students I get to ride a double-whammy paying once again to support those who ride the bus. This province is communist enough without the UPASS.

—W. Scott Sherman

P.S. Communism works in China, not in Canada

Ed. note: Mr. Sherman is incorrect in his belief that the U-Pass will generate funds for the UVSS. The UVSS will receive no income from the universal pass system. Further, Mr. Sherman is concerned that anti-U-Pass posters were torn down during the campaign period. According to the electoral committee, a "no" campaign against the pass was not formally registered with the elections office, thus, the posters were torn down according to the electoral policy.

"Universal" rights debate continues

Editors,

Now that the U-PASS issue is settled, I am looking forward to seeing the anti-U forces extend their user-pays philosophy to other unfair situations, such as the massive taxpayer subsidies of higher education. After all, tuition only covers a fraction of the cost of a university education, and most taxpayers don't 'use' our degrees - why should they pay?

I expect, in the interest of consistency, that the drivers among the No faction will not spare themselves, either. There is a large amount of data showing that drivers pay only part of the cost of owning a vehicle; cyclists, pedestrians and transit users effectively subsidize drivers through property and income taxes. Todd Litman of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute (www.islandnet.com/~litman) points out that a typical household pays $200-$400 of property taxes used for roads, regardless of how the occupants travel.

I mention only in passing the absurd waste of valuable land that is a parking lot, the numerous health issues associated with car culture, the urban sprawl and the environmental degradation due to personal motor vehicles. Cars are useful, no doubt, but it is time that drivers acknowledged that they are the beneficiaries of a tax system that does not impose the full cost of their habit upon them. Perhaps they should consider the U-PASS not as an extra cost, but as a small rebate to those who help fund them.

And to use an awful journalistic cliche, full disclosure: I am currently a transit rider, but will be a cyclist again by the time the U-PASS kicks in, so yes, I'm paying for a service I won't be using much, and I don't mind at all.

—Murray Love

In defense of the arts

Editors,

Re: Student Voice, 11 03 99

John Trueman's letter (Student Voice, 11/03/99) was a most interesting discussion of the events that occurred at the last Senate meeting. He raises an issue that has been a concern of faculty for some time. The non-replacement of retiring faculty is, at first glance, a comparatively easy means to pull back into general funding, the salaries of long-time (and therefore, expensive) scholars. What is missing from this solution is a rigorous examination of the effects of faculty attrition on the academic needs of undergraduate and graduate students. It is, as Mr. Trueman points out, time for the administration to concern itself with the academic implications surrounding the non-replacement of retiring faculty. The excision of the Theatre/Drama in Education programme from the Calendar has created an extraordinary amount of extra pressure on students who were hoping to obtain their BFAs in Theatre with a T/DIE specialization. Their concerted efforts to engage the administration with their concerns however, has meant that the administration has found the means to make it possible for them to complete—albeit in a way that requires them to take the program "at one bite," rather than over the usual four years.

There is one sentence of Mr. Trueman's letter that should be addressed. He writes, "The real tragedy here isn't the loss of four courses in a program that most UVic students barely know about; the tragedy is the precedent we're setting by systematically deconstructing the very programs that made UVic what it is today." While I agree with his overall point (see above), I have to submit that "the loss of four courses" does not simply represent a loss to a number of students (about 100 over a four year span), a loss to the Theatre Department, the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Education with which the T/DIE program has been associated since the 1970s. It is also a loss for the Ministry of Education who have mandated educational drama and theatre courses (K through 12). Ultimately, the excision of the T/DIE program at UVic means that there will be elementary and secondary students in British Columbia who will be losers. This, it seems to me, is a tragedy when we consider the latest research that suggests that the Fine Arts are imperative curriculum mediators for effective student learning.

Thank you, Mr. Trueman, for raising these issues and for your letter. We may be small in number and apparently "gone" but, by God, we are blessed in our allies and hope, like theatre, springs eternal.

—Juliana M. Saxton
Professor Emeritus, Theatre Department

Thanks! (we think)

Editors,

Thank-you for not allowing the love of a good Eagle's tune interfere with representing students building a smokin' ideal which won't pour the free reign of corporate leaches through high, arching dreams, and rather honors those stitching their own logos.

—M. Strother

letters continued on page 20

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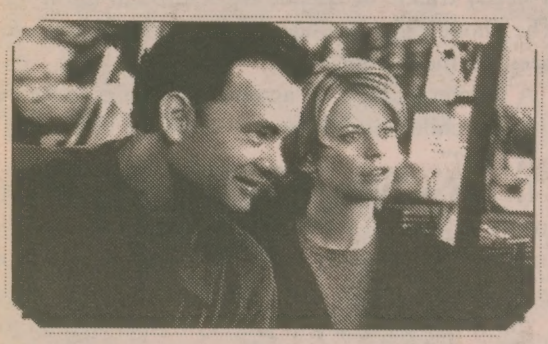
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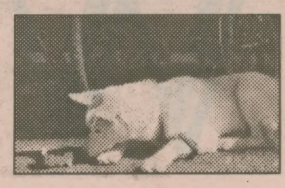
puppy lovin'

Quote of the Week:

"If you love darkness, then you'll love the new Eddie Bauer catalog."

—Graphics Editor David Low gets it right once again.

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Wolverine's land

By Dale Lum
The Ubyssey

His legal title is Jones William Ignace, but he prefers Wolverine, the name most people know him for after the stand-off at Gustafsen Lake

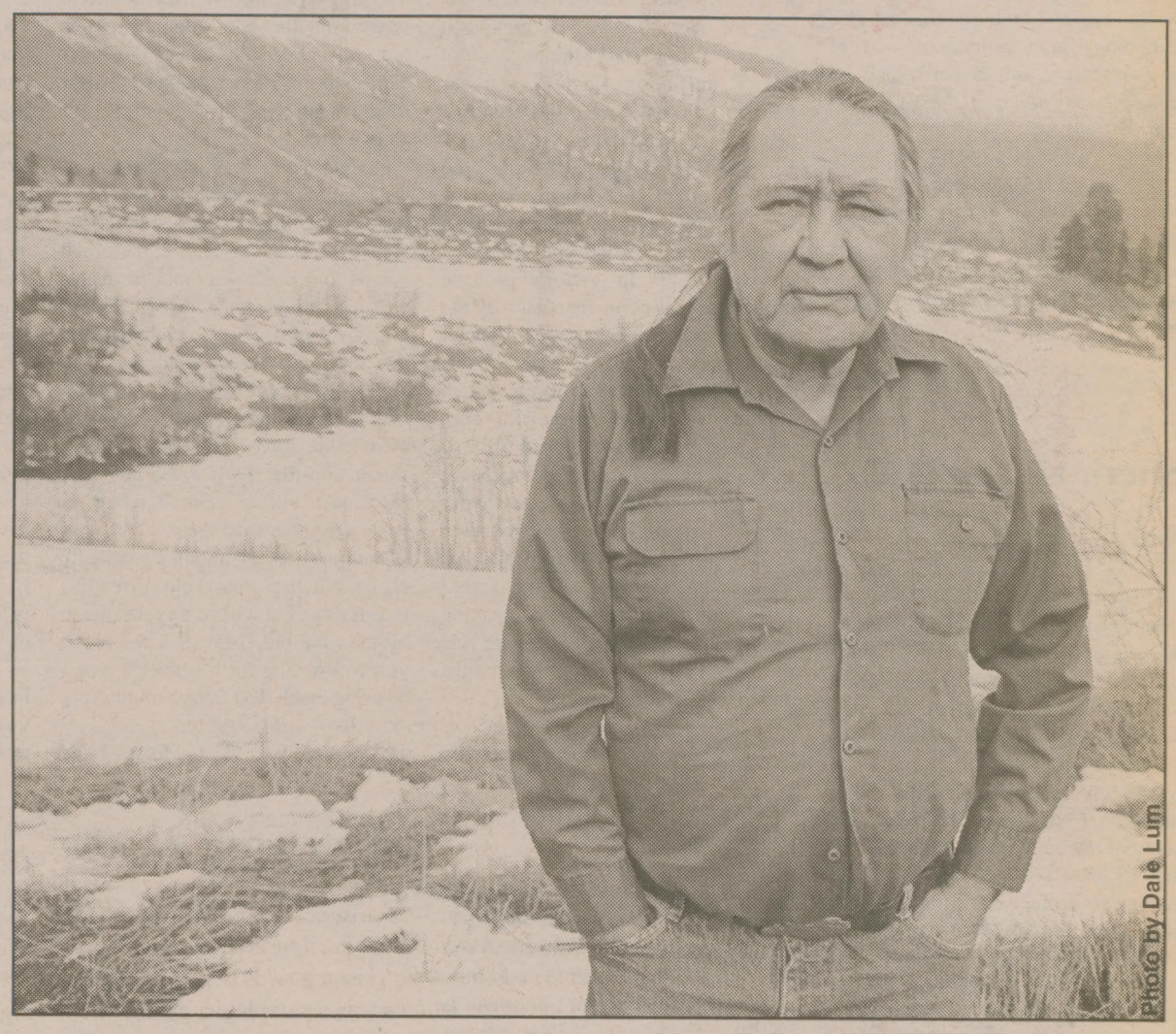


Photo by Dale Lum

ADAMS LAKE, B.C. —Wolverine stands up, looks at my 5'7" frame and chuckles. "You don't look like an RCMP hitman," he tells me. I laugh back nervously and shake his hand.

You can't blame Wolverine, 67, for being wary these days. Back in 1995, the organic farmer was at the centre of the Gustafsen Lake storm.

During one month that summer, 400 RCMP officers, armed with M-16 assault rifles, land mines and eight armoured personnel carriers, descended on the ranch where Wolverine and 17 others were camped. The police fired 77,000 rounds of ammunition—including UN-banned hollow-point bullets—at the encampment of aboriginals and non-aboriginal supporters.

Earlier that summer, prior to the confrontation, the ranch played host to the traditional native Sundance ceremony, as it had for the last six years.

In 1989 Percy Rosette, a Shuswap native, asked Lyall James, whose cattle grazed the land on which the Sundance was to be held, for permission to use his field. James agreed and the satisfied Sundancers returned each summer to hold their ritual.

Things were fine until 1995, when James decided the dancers had overstayed their welcome and handed them an eviction notice. But the Sundancers refused to leave. By August the RCMP Emergency Response Team had moved in to remove the 18 armed men and women who remained encamped on the ranch.

Wolverine's son Joseph would later be charged with attempted murder for firing at a group of five officers. He was later acquitted, but Wolverine insists the police knew from the beginning that Joseph was innocent.

"(My son) was the one that answered the phone about four or five times, which was recorded by the RCMP who had that phone monitored," he says. "They know who was here yet allowed my son to take a fall for somebody else."

For his part, Wolverine was charged with attempted murder after firing at the wheels of an armoured personnel carrier. In 1997, he was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison, the harshest sentence of anyone involved in the armed confrontation. Today he's out on parole, having been released on January 28th.

He doesn't deny what he did, but he maintains his innocence.

"The minute that we talk about land rights, we are criminalized by the criminals themselves, who exploit all the resources of our lands," he says. "So how could we have justice in this country? How could we really have justice when the native people are the only ones that stand on law?"

The law Wolverine cites—the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and section 35 of the Canadian Constitution—formed the basis of his trial defence.

According to the proclamation, natives have an exclusive right to any aboriginal land that was not sold or ceded in a treaty. The 1763 law was never rescinded, but the legal argument today is over its interpretation and whether it is binding on modern-day British Columbia. Wolverine believes it is, and argues that those in authority do as well.

"The politicians know this," he says. "The judges know this. The RCMP know this. But the middle class immigrants of this country don't know that they are living on stolen land."

The law Wolverine cites—the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and section 35 of the Canadian Constitution—formed the basis of his trial defence.

Wolverine isn't afraid to share his views on the federal government, arguing that throughout Canadian history it has committed genocide on native people and is now conspiring to hide the truth. He cites the Indian Act of 1884—which banned native traditions such as the potlatch and Sundance until it was revised in 1951—as a case in point.

That act, he maintains, was illegal. When I ask why, he leans back in his chair and looks at me incredulously.

"Why is it illegal?" he says. "Because we are sovereign people in our sovereign territories."

A little later, he reveals that his parole officer, who visited him earlier in the day, told him that speaking out about Gustafsen Lake could result in his returning to jail.

"They may revoke my parole because I'm talking to you," he tells me. "But I wanted the truth out because truth and respect goes hand in hand. Respect and law go hand in hand. At the standoff we brought out all the law. And we had to, because there is no justice in this country for the native people. Never have been, and never will be."

His disdain for the courts and the RCMP is blunt. As an example, he compares Gustafsen Lake with the APEC controversy.

"This is worse than APEC because the colour of our skins is brown. We don't get a public inquiry. Middle-class white people get sprayed with a little bit of pepper spray, and they get a public inquiry."

Wolverine adds to this the hypocrisy of Prime Minister Jean Chretien telling the world that Canada is a leader in eliminating land mines around the world.

"How could you ban land mines at the international level and still use [them] in your homeland, in your own backyard, against native people?" he asks.

The land issue is central to what native people are fighting for. But not everyone shares Wolverine's violent solutions to solving treaty disputes.

During the stand-off, the elected Caribou Tribal Council urged the armed group to put down their guns and walk away.

Wolverine, however, believes band councils are invalid and don't provide true government to native people. He says only the hereditary chief system is a legitimate form of aboriginal government.

It's views like this that make Wolverine unpopular among some members of his own community. Some have even banned him from speaking in areas, even in his own Shuswap nation.

"They feel that I'm jeopardizing their treaties," he explains. "(But) their treaties are fraudulent to begin with because B.C. is sitting at the negotiating table. B.C. is not a nation, so how can B.C. make a treaty?"

Wolverine believes the current treaty process isn't a fair solution, though he isn't sure what a workable alternative might be. What he does want is for native and non-native people to co-exist peacefully and respect each other's territories, something he says native people proposed 100 years ago.

Yet, Wolverine is doubtful such a scenario could work. With corporate lumber and fishing profits at stake, he believes natives and non-natives will continue to clash.

As we talk Wolverine's house is a hub of activity. Children and grandchildren shout in the next room while a steady trickle of friends walk through the front door. The phone rings incessantly while the microwave oven beeps in the kitchen.

A toddler bumps up against his chair, so Wolverine lifts the child onto his knee. "What are you doing there boy? Eh?"

He then says that's enough for today. He doesn't want to talk anymore. I should go. He doesn't say that, but it's implied. He could say more, he says, but he'll probably go to jail for talking to me.

"So if this lands me in jail, now what's going to happen? Are you going to send some smokes for me? Eh?" he says, laughing. Then he says I can bring him some tobacco tomorrow morning. Export A's.

I laugh at this but on the way out the door Wolverine's wife tells me, "When you talk to an elder, you're supposed to bring tobacco. Didn't you know?"

I apologize and tell her that I didn't.

The horror of Pinochet's legacy

By Pam Graham

When he visited his homeland of Chile in February, Victoria resident Carlos Flores, a political and human rights activist, agreed to deliver letters and money for medical help to a group of 76 political prisoners. But when he arrived at the prison he found that 56 of the 76 prisoners were missing.

Angered, Flores contacted the Organization of Peoples Defense (ODEP), an organization created in 1992 by the families of Chilean political prisoners. He learned from ODEP that the prisoners had been transferred to a maximum security prison called Colina two weeks earlier, on Feb. 7. Prison authorities said that they transferred the prisoners after a riot threatened to turn into a jail-bust. But when Flores later interviewed some of the transferred female prisoners in the prison hospital, he said he discovered that they had been beaten, tortured, burned with cigarettes and shot at by prison guards before and during the transfer. One of the women was a paraplegic, another was living with lupus.

"The worsening condition for these people is a direct retaliation of Pinochet's arrest," says Rob Fleming, University of Victoria Student's Society chair and a member of an informal community group trying to gather together money and resources to help the prisoners.

Augusto Pinochet, Chile's dictator from 1973 to 1990, was arrested in London on October 16, 1998, based on a Spanish provisional warrant alleging that he was responsible for the murder of Spanish citizens in Chile.

Despite a violent 17 year dictatorship that resulted in more than 3,000 people being murdered or "disappeared," Pinochet still holds considerable power in Chile. Before giving up his dictatorship, he appointed himself senator for life and is still popular with the Chilean elite.

The Feb. 7 incident at the Colina prison confirms fears that Pinochet's politically powerful supporters are cracking down once again on the people who protested Pinochet's dictatorship, says Kevin Neish, a spokesperson for the group trying to help the prisoners. The prisoners who were transferred to Colina prison are being held for political, rather than criminal reasons, he says, adding that Amnesty International has become involved in the case.

"It's ironic," said Fleming. "Only half of Chile's political prisoners have had proper trials to be able to defend themselves."

To understand why these prisoners are being punished, you have to understand the complicated history of Chile, says Neish.

Pinochet's rule over Chile began in 1973 when he led a military coup against Salvador Allende and his socialist government. Allende was killed during an attack on the presidential palace. For the next 17 years, Pinochet led a total dictatorship that economists argue improved Chile's economic position in the capitalist world, but critics such as Amnesty International say led to brutal human rights violations against Allende's supporters and other Chilean citizens.

The controversy over Pinochet's arrest in London is due to the fact that he has both enemies and friends around the world.

Although his image is deteriorating in the eyes of Chileans, Fleming says, there are many people who support him. Ex-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher recently sent 5,000 pamphlets in favour of Pinochet worldwide. However, countries such as Switzerland, France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United States have instituted cases in national courts against him.

At the end of March the final decision on whether or not Pinochet will enjoy immunity will be decided by British courts. Victoria human rights activists are planning either celebrations or protests in Victoria and Vancouver, depending on the outcome.

Pinochet's lawyers are trying to free him from being sent to Spain on the basis of Chile's impunity and an amnesty decree that was first declared on April 19, 1978, and granted in 1990 by the Chilean Constitution. Since 1973 numerous cases have been brought against participants in human rights violations cases in Chile, but most have been let off based on amnesty rulings.

While these alleged torturers are let off with nothing more than a slap on the wrist, the Chilean public is thrown in prison, often without a trial, for protesting against the government, says Fleming. There is no freedom of speech in Chile, and homosexuality is illegal. Numerous Chilean journalists have been imprisoned and had their magazines or newspapers suspended for printing opposition parties' views against the government.

When arrested, political prisoners, if granted a trial, are tried twice—once by a civilian court and once by a military court. Decisions are then cumulative, so if the civilian court gives five years and the military gives 10, the prisoner is sentenced to 15 years. For years the police in Chile were allowed to arrest people on suspicion alone.

Flores says that there were "officially" no political prisoners in Chile before Pinochet's arrest in London. However, today their stories are reaching the Chilean public. Many victims of the military coup are coming together to protest and speak out against Pinochet. Many want to give their testimonies to the courts in London.

"We are discovering more bodies everyday," said Flores, referring to the unmarked graves that held the bodies of people who disappeared as long ago as 1973.

Despite the growing recognition of human rights abuses in their country's past, Chileans are less willing to accept that human rights abuses are still happening in Chile.

"A legacy of dictatorship still remains," says Fleming. "It is part of the culture within the army and police."

Support for the prisoners who were beaten and tortured in February is non-existent within the country, says Flores, who is still in Chile. The authorities deny there are any political prisoners, and the corporate media emphasize that since the prisoners are "terrorists and subversives," any claims of abuse or torture are diminished or ignored, he adds.

"The authorities are not allowing anyone into the prison," Flores said. "The Chilean government wants to have a very clean image." Guillermo Valdivieso, a professor at Camosun College, says the government develops fictitious problems for the public to focus on to get their attention away from the tortured and missing.

While other countries cherish their heritage, Chile's ex-president asks the country to forget the past.

"It is best to remain silent and to forget. It is the only thing to do. We must forget. And forgetting does not occur by opening cases, putting people in jail. Forget— this is the word— and for this to occur, both sides have to forget and continue working," said Pinochet on Sept. 13, 1995, two days after the 22nd anniversary of the military coup.

However, Neish says it is hard not to ignore the cries for help from prisoners like Maria Christina San Juan and Marcela Rodriguez, who in a recently released statement blame Chileans Hugo Espinoza, national director of prisons, Col. Edmundo Letelier, manager of prison security, and the prison guards for their February injuries.

"It's very disturbing to think people are being tortured in the cruelest of ways," said Fleming. "Their lawyers and families are not even allowed in to see them. I can't imagine a worse situation for a human to be in."

For more information contact Kevin Neish at 595-3991 or e-mail Carlos Flores directly at juanca79@hotmail.com. Flores asks Victorians to write letters to Canada's Prime Minister, Mister of Foreign Affairs and the Canadian Ambassador to Chile. . .

Guitar Good, Oppression Bad
rocking out against racism

by Käthe Lemon

Guitar Good, Oppression Bad—it's a pretty obvious statement to most, but unfortunately it is also one that some people just haven't figured out yet.

This show, to celebrate the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, features local bands Horses 4 Change, Canadian Passport and Octum's Razor.

"Basically it's a do-it-yourself kind of thing," said Tara Matsuzaki, who plays keyboards for Horses 4 Change. "We wanted to express our issues and thoughts on racism as well as make something positive instead of focusing on the problems."

"I think Rock For Choice inspired me," said Horses 4 Change bassist Lyndsay Sung. "They were doing something so important for a cause that was so important, yet they were having fun at it."

Fun is the focus for this show, even though it has a very political bent.

"It's going to be a good time—that's one of the ideas," Sung said. "I think sometimes politics get too heavy, and that's what scares people away. Also, some people's politics are so negative and, in my opinion, destructive. Yes, there has been shit in this world, but let's embrace that and remember it, but move on from it too. Negativity in movements causes many divisions."

mation tables from various organizations committed to eliminating racism.

"This is a political event," said Sung. "Our songs are political lyric-wise, and the fact that we are playing and that you don't really see that too often in Victoria—a racially and sexually diverse group of girls screaming, playing music and taking up space—that's really empowering."

Sung points out that the show is not just about racially diverse bands playing for a racially diverse audience, it is about uniting against racism. "Our band is racially diverse, but the point of the show was also in solidarity against racism," Sung said. "Sometimes it just seems like all the persons of colour are doing all the work, but it is necessary that everyone, white people included, take on a role in combatting discrimination."

"The people who are being stepped on are going to yell out first," said Matsuzaki, "but there are also supporters who haven't had that lived experience of oppression."

In the spirit of the elimination of discrimination, the show, which will be held at the G Spot, will be open to all ages, races and sexual orientations.

"There's been a lack and a fallout of any sort of on-going girl band scene in Victoria, one that is political and also fun," said Sung. "We want to try and get one started again. Plus, we also wanted to bring something into the G Spot that was fresh and could encompass queer youth and bring in a different crowd.",

But Guitar Good Oppression Bad doesn't just preach, it also practices elimination of discrimination. All the proceeds from the concert will go to the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

"Making noise, making music and spreading words is really effective when mixed with strong politics, not just token politics, but something real and meaningful," Sung said. "People learn from sharing. That's what we're trying to do—share knowledge and have fun at it."

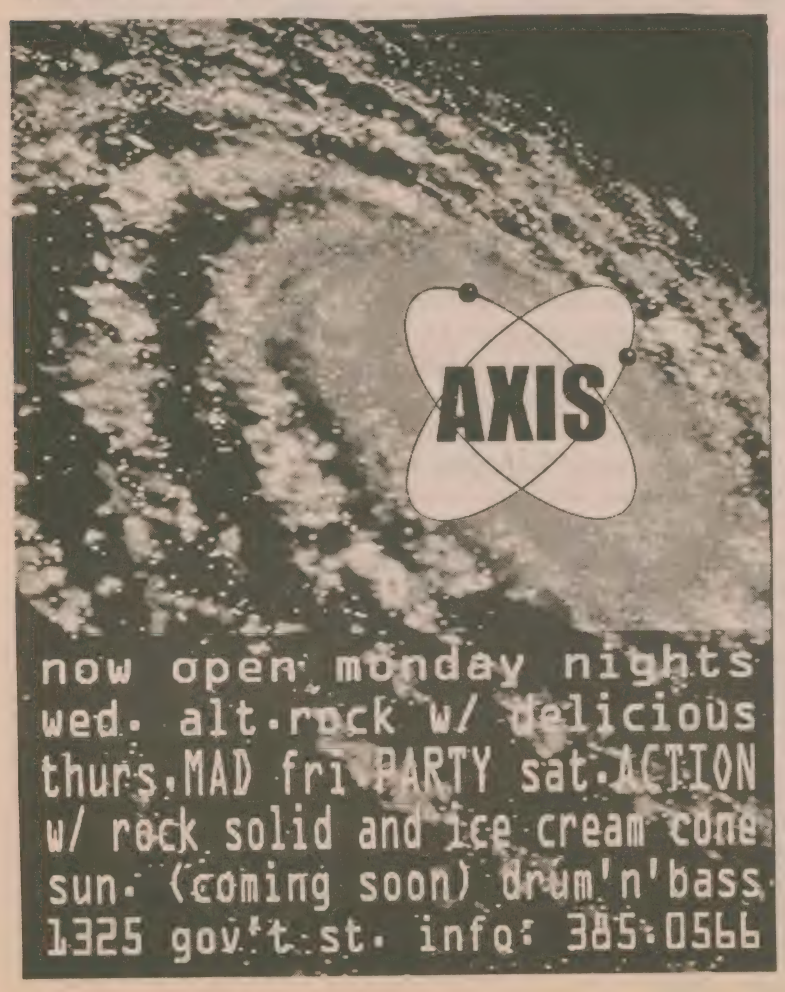
"The people who are being stepped on are going to yell out first, but there are also supporters who haven't had that lived experience of oppression."

"Besides, mixing both politics and art can be a very valid and effective way of educating," adds Sung. "I know that for me, that is how I have learned a lot of things I try to practice, not just through school but through music, reading books and literature and zines."

"Humour can be a political tool," said Matsuzaki. "People are more receptive and less defensive if a message is not presented in a confrontational way."

But on the political side, there will be a zine distributed to the audience to give information about the cause, as well as infor-

Guitar Good, Oppression Bad will be at the G Spot, located downtown on Store street, on Saturday, March 20. Admission is on a sliding scale from $3-$5.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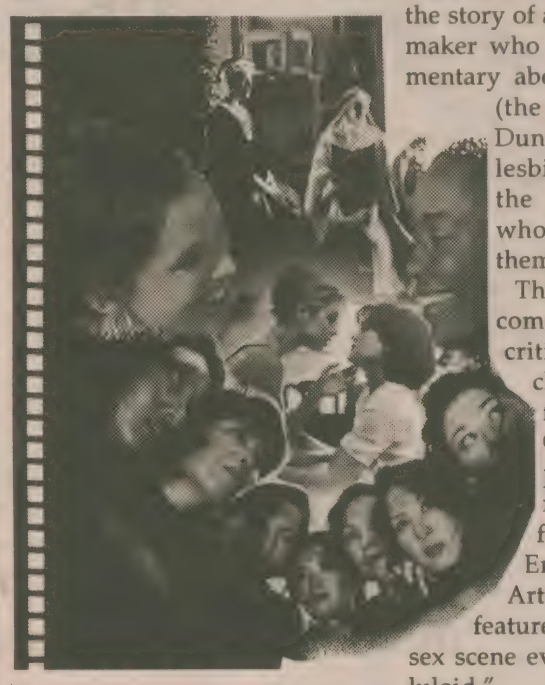
Hottest celluloid coming your way

by Käthe Lemon

Another day, another film fest. But the first annual International Lesbian and Feminist Film Festival is different than most.

For one thing the festival is very focused. There are four feature-length films, which deal with lesbian-feminist issues. The films will be shown over two days at the Roxy Theatre (bonus: no picket line to cross).

"We wanted something manageable," says Jannit Rabinovitch, the festival coordinator. "Four was a reasonable number for what we were able to take on."



The films are from points all over the globe, but none of those points fall on Canadian soil.

"There are a lot of lesbian films being produced," says Rabinovitch. "Unfortunately there are no full-length features made in Canada. Apparently there's one in production."

Rabinovitch points out, however, that Canada is home to many great lesbian documentaries. "Because we have the NFB, people are more willing to do documentaries than to do the footwork and get the money for a feature. I think the lesbian-feminists in Canada produce documentaries, and the creativity is channeled in that direction."

The festival gets off to a self-depreciatory start with the Mexican film *I, the Worst of All* on March 29 at 1 p.m. Directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg, the film tells the true story of the 17th century Mexican nun, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz.

One of the reasons that this film was chosen was because it challenges the way people think of feminism and the history of lesbianism.

"The films are not only from different cultures, but they talk about life in a way that jolts us into the realization that we have a very packaged way of looking at the world," says Rabinovitch. "For many people the idea of a lesbian woman in 17th century Mexico is impossible."

The Watermelon Woman, showing at 3 p.m. on March 20, tells the story of a black lesbian filmmaker who is making a documentary about a black lesbian (the director, Cheryl Dunye is also a black lesbian film-maker, so the movie has that whole film-on-film theme going).

This multi-faceted comedy has received critical praise for its charm and criticism from conservative Congressmen, in part because it received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. It also reportedly features "the hottest dyke sex scene ever recorded on celluloid."

It's in the Water, showing March 21 at 1 p.m., takes place in a small southern town where an AIDS hospice has recently opened. Rumours begin to circulate that the water is contaminated with something that actually turns people gay. The film is advertised as being a feel-good movie where gays are not reduced to show-tune-singing, comfortable-shoe-wearing caricatures (but we expect no less from the lesbian-feminist film fest).

This film is a great example of these film-makers' determination to voice their message. Director Kelli Herd actually sold her house and car in order to finance the film.

The fourth film in the festival is *A Hot Roof*, showing on March 21 at 3 p.m. The film, in Korean with English subtitles, is funny one moment and emotional the next. *A Hot Roof* tells the story of the hottest day of the century and what happens when a group of Korean women refuse to accept the abuse of another woman by her husband.

"The film fest started because I saw two of these films and thought it was really sad that none of my friends were going to see them unless they travelled," says Rabinovitch. "It's no one's mandate to bring these films to Victoria. They were obviously not going to come here unless we did it. The festival gives us an opportunity to see these things through new eyes."

The first annual lesbian feminist film festival runs from March 20 - 21 at the Roxy Theatre. The box office will open one hour before show time. A donation from the proceeds will be made to the Sakhi lesbian centre in India.

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Puente Theatre: keepin' things real with diversity

by Käthe Lemon

Storytelling Our Lives, performed by Puente Theatre troupe on March 19 at the Phoenix Theatre, gives both the actors and audience a chance to share their experiences with immigration.

The play is a series of stories about immigrant women and their experiences.

"The stories are composites," says Lina de Guevera, the artistic director of Puente and co-writer of *Storytelling Our Lives*. "You take one story here, one story there. They aren't necessarily the experiences of the actors."

VIPIRG invited Puente to perform at the Phoenix as part of the week-long events for the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racism.

"I'd seen this group in the fall ,and we really wanted to bring them to this event," says Tara Balcombe, VIPIRG volunteer. "A lot of the fine arts departments don't ordinarily get involved in political events. We really wanted to make an effort to include as many departments as possible."

Although de Guevera says that the show doesn't focus on racism, the topic is implied.

"For the last two years we have been focusing on the topic of racism. *Storytelling* has to do with racism because it does give a voice to immigrant women, and it validates that experience," says de Guevera. "It is part of the solution and increases knowledge. In that sense it is an anti-racist play."

Storytelling Our Lives came out of the experience of performing the community play *Sister Stranger*. A community play is one in which professional actors work with members of the community, in this case the community of immigrant women, to perform a play. One part of that project dealt with stories, and out of it came the inspiration for *Storytelling Our Lives*.

Three playwrights, Comfort Ero, Pearl Louie and de Guevera, worked to create the different stories that make up the play. Enrique Rivas also wrote original music for the show.

De Guevera, who also directs and acts in *Storytelling*, emphasizes that the company is made up of professional actors, not volunteers.

"All of the actors are trained," says de Guevera. "Many of them came to Canada with theatre training, but others got their training through Puente and our projects. In this show there are six actors from various countries, as well as Enrique Rivas, who performs the music."

Puente began in 1988 with a project to create a play about immigrant experience, which was sponsored by the Belfry Theatre. Since then the company has expanded its mandate.

"It started being a theatre company about the Latin American experience," says de Guevera. "But then we started widening it up. Our objective is to do plays about the experience of immigrants."

Another objective of the company is to involve the audience in the performances.

"We always try to include the audience in a meaningful way. We don't force anyone to do anything though," says de Guevera.

In *Storytelling Our Lives* the audience participation factor comes in during the "Playback" time, when the audience is asked to tell the actors a story. The actors then do an improv performance of the story, including music.

Also, at the end of the performance, audience members are asked to stand in a line in the order of how long their families have been in Canada.

"It blows the stereotypes about who immigrated when," says Stacy Chappel from VIPIRG. "You have some Asian people who've been here a lot longer than you'd think. It is really moving."

"We try to unite the audience space and the performance space," says de Guevera. "What we're trying to do is provide the audience with an experience that's different than watching a movie or TV. We really hope that students will come out and see it."

Storytelling has to do with racism because it does give a voice to immigrant women, and it validates that experience. It is part of the solution and increases knowledge. In that sense it is an anti-racist play."

Storytelling Our Lives *will be at the Phoenix Theatre on Friday, March 19. The show starts at 4 p.m. Get there early because seating is limited.*

Anti-racism air-waves on CFUV

by Käthe Lemon

The strong message to combat racism and discrimination comes to you through a variety of media this week, including special events, films, lectures...even radio.

From 2-10 p.m. on Thursday March 18, CFUV will host eight hours of programming devoted to the elimination of racial discrimination.

The programming, organized by the Native Students' Union and the university's Coalition Against Racism, takes the message out of the SUB and sends it out on the air-waves.

"This ties in with the whole week of events speaking towards the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination," said William George, who organized the event. "We wanted to do a poster campaign and advertise in radio and TV. One of the ways of communicating our ideas and concerns was through the radio."

George followed up the idea by making a proposal to CFUV and talking to possible hosts.

"The idea was to have programming speaking towards the elimination of racism. We didn't want to just focus on racism, we also wanted to celebrate different cultures."

There will be different hosts throughout the day and a live feed from the cultural Mosaic in the SUB Multi-Purpose Room, George said.

"The programming is on a basic theme," said George. "But each host gets to program their own time."

He emphasized that there will be a variety of topics and media over the eight hours, including lectures, literature and music.

This eight hours is a step in the direction of a more culturally diverse experience for CFUV listeners. Although there are several shows on the station that focus on specific cultural groups, some feel that there is nothing that encompasses the spectrum of cultural diversity at UVic.

Lyndsay Sung, who will be hosting a portion of the elimination of racial discrimination show and is the host of Token Zone, has been a volunteer at CFUV for three years,and has seen changes within the programming. "When I first started my program, there was a definite need for more diversity on the airwaves. Most of the slots were filled with straight white rock boys. There was, and is, "multi-cultural" programming on the weekends, but those are more focused towards certain cultural groups. The Token Zone deals more with what it's like being a Canadian-born person of colour, and feelings of displacement," said Sung.

"My show also emphasizes the importance of having women of colour's voices on-air, in both spoken word format as well as in music."

CFUV's programming for the elimination of racism will air from 2-20 p.m. on Thursday, March 18.

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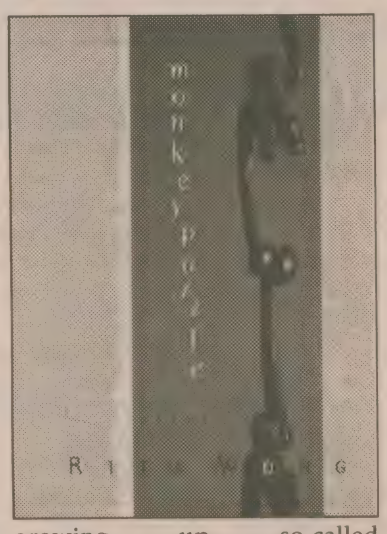
Chinese-Canadian poet Rita Wong: the personal is political

monkeypuzzle
Rita Wong
Press Gang Publishers
by Lyndsay Sung

A monkeypuzzle is a never-ending link of little plastic red chimps. The challenge of the game is to try and link as many monkeys together as possible before it all falls apart.

monkeypuzzle, by Chinese-Canadian poet Rita Wong, speaks large volumes of the challenges and contradictions involved in being a young Asian woman in Canada.



Writing from experience, Wong explores the many facets of her Chinese identity, expressing feelings of displacement and of an aching attempt for sensical reality in a very screwed-up world.

Wong's poetry moves surely from Chinese history, to present-day global unrest, to the APEC pepper-spraying in Vancouver, to sex and sensuality. It is an unfolding diary of lyrical thinking, of sadness and a sparse hope for the future.

In the poem "chinese and not chinese," Wong examines in lyrical detail the displacement of living as a Chinese in Canada, of growing up so-called "Canadian," while still being linked to the Chinese occupation of Tibet or the horror of Tiannemen Square.

"chinese and not chinese/i hate what my beloved china is doing to tibet/how millions of chinese are denied truth/hearing of economic progress but nothing of genocide."

Wong's social and political consciousness is clear as she explores Canada's role in both past and present racism against Chinese. As racism comes from all sides, it is cloaked, and it is blatant.

Another topic Wong examines through poetry is Canada's trade negogiations and practices with other countries. The bitter taste of APEC's global takeover lingers in her words.

"Democracy has become a myth...when you know the multinational corporations have more of a right to decide what happens to your world, your enviroment, your life and security, than you do."

While the personal is political for Wong, her poetry is also connected to being human, as she writes of love lost in "leavetaking": "empty coathangers/clash. echo in the closet," and, in her headbanger days, falling for a racist boy in "crush": "caught between wannabe bad girl & good chinese girl."

In *monkeypuzzle*, politics and resistance go hand in hand with love and passion and even a douse of humour.

Rita Wong brings together all of these things in a revealing, conscious and insightful manner.

"caught between wannabe bad girl & good chinese girl."

Poets open up heads

by Natasha Marsden

Student writers, starving students, starving artists, professional writers and professional students gathered at the Open Space Gallery on Friday as two starving writing students and one professional-writing artist read from their works.

Stephan Price, a student in his fourth year of UVic's creative writing program, launched the evening's readings with his collection of Houdini-inspired poems. He punctuated his verses on kisses, keys and infertility with a sultry reading voice.

It appears that Open Space had anticipated a small, intimate crowd of about 50. But people trickled in throughout Price's readings until there was standing room only. When the late-arrivals were seated, Amanda Lamarche took the stage.

The fourth-year English-major told her personal tales of hometowns and dogbites, against the sound of a hacking audience member trying to hide her coughs in the gallery's bathroom. Lamarche did her best to ignore that and other distractions—namely Sid, the six-foot cardboard cowboy (part of a running exhibition), and more late arrivers.

Lamarche did her best to ignore that and other distractions—namely Sid, the six-foot cardboard cowboy.

Patrick Friesen, whose book of poetry, *A Broken Bowl*, was awarded the 1997 Governor General's Award, pulled the audience into an extremely personal world. His comic accounts of watching his musician son come of age amidst an assault of sound balanced out the sentimental flashbacks of his young daughter. Friesen returns to the Open Space Gallery, on behalf of the Canadian Council for the Arts, in October 1999 with Todd Davis.

Summer lovin': Phoenix does it

Midsummer Night's Dream
Shakespeare
Dir: Leslie D. Bland
by Käthe Lemon

Some people seem to think that putting on a production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* is an easy undertaking—that all you need is a lot of energy, a bunch of fairy outfits, some glitter and a wee bit of talent.

Perhaps that's why I didn't expect much from the Phoenix's final show in their Shakespeare season. But even my highest expectations were exceeded by leaps and bounds.

This is the Phoenix's crowning glory and considering that it is produced almost exclusively by students, proves that they do know what they are doing, even if we doubt them from time to time.

The first thing that is striking about the production is the simple beauty of it.

Titania (Mairi Babb) and Bottom (Geoff Gustafson) get to know one another a little better in *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Phoenix.
Martlet photo by Peter Booth

The set by Maury Drummond and costumes by Lindsay Walker are dream-like and extravagant. Walker stayed away from the cliché wings and glitter and created beautiful and original costumes. She also sticks to a clear and simple colour scheme, which helps create the dream-like quality. The only time she let her large budget get the better of her judgement was in designing the costumes for Titania and Oberon—*aiaiai*, too much glitter. Titania ends up looking like the fairy whore and Oberon her gothic pimp.

Although she has created an incredible set that allows the play to move fluidly from fairy land to reality, Drummond also has one temporary loss of judgement. What was with that pole? It ended up being a little bit suggestive and a lot cheesy. (You'll know it when you see it.) Otherwise she has created a beautiful and functional set that echoes the themes of the play.

No single actor steals the show because all of the performances are masterfully executed. The only problem with the supporting characters is that I wished they were on stage longer.

Erin Karpluk, as Hermia, is only one example of the fantastic combination of wit and physical humour that is used to great advantage in this production.

No single actor steals the show because all of the performances are masterfully executed.

The mechanicals are terrific in every scene they appear in, and Geoff Gustafson is amazing as the styling mack-daddy Bottom.

This is the Phoenix's "don't miss" show. Sure to make you laugh, it is the perfect show to see with a date, friend or all on your lonesome.

Midsummer Night's Dream *shows at the Phoenix Theatre until March 27. Call 721-8000 for more information.*

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Running away at the CIAU Indoor Nationals

UVic's women picked up the pace this past weekend at McGill. Every member was named an All-Canadian and the team collected six medals in five events.

by Jeff Rea

Larrissa Managh had some ground to make up over the final 800 metres. The first-year indoor runner had been handed the baton and, with it, Victoria's desperate hopes for gold.

Wendy Cocksedge had done her part. Matched against some of the strongest middle distance specialists in the country, Cocksedge heroically kept contact and left the squad within striking distance of the teams ahead of them.

Stephanie Mills and Barbora Brych both picked off runners during their legs and then were left bellowing, in the heart of the track, to Managh who had one to catch.

The gap quickly closed, to the shock of 500 screaming McGill fans who tried with every shout to push their anchor away from the fast-approaching Vike.

With 200 metres to go, Managh made her move and kicked past the leader into what would be a short-lived advantage.

The Vikes broke Syracuse's old McGill Fieldhouse record by an amazing 19 seconds this past weekend, but they couldn't break the spirits of those 500 screaming McGill Martlet fans. With their win over the Vikes, the Martlets now hold the new event record at 9:05.20. With it, they wore golden smiles.

Losing isn't something that comes easily to Brent Fougner's teams. Fougner, who recently took over the women's cross country and indoor sides after Ron Bowker left the program, had guided the men's cross country team to a record four consecutive national titles heading into this season.

In November he proved what many had already assumed: Fougner's women would soon be a dynasty as well. He paced them to their sixth national championship in two decades at Waterloo, and this past weekend returned east for a repeat performance of sorts. Although it was mathematically impossible for UVic's four women to bring home the CIAU Indoor Championships, they still returned well decorated.

In fact, they brought home a medal for every event they entered, and finished seventh out of 21 teams despite only taking part in four of 17 events.

"It was the weekend that I wished for," said Fougner. "Usually you go away and some people don't have good races, but this year we were satisfied that we all had our best races at the CIAUs."

By unofficially running personal bests in all four legs of the 4 x 800 and knocking 14 seconds off their team's top time, Managh, Mills, Brych and Cocksedge most certainly upped the ante.

And it didn't end, there for two of the four competitors. The next day a tired Brych and Managh—who were competing in their third event in two days—took to the track for the 1500 metre.

Although it was Managh who crossed the line first two weeks earlier at the Canada West Championships, the order was reversed in Montreal. It was Brych who controlled the race at the nationals, and Managh who stayed close enough behind to take second and secure yet another UVic PB.

"I just decided I was going to win," said Brych, who was running just her second 1500 of the season. "I don't have a kick, and I was running against opponents who do, so I took it out strong. I did it my way this time, and everything just fell into place."

Managh was not too disappointed to finish with a silver behind her teammate and friend.

"I didn't have a whole lot left for [the 1500]," she said, "and she knew that she had to lose me. But we're just happy that UVic was first and second."

Managh, who has returned to running this season after being away from the sport for four years, also took home silver in the 1000 metre. The event, which ended just over an hour before the team's 4 x 8 relay, was won by Kristina Farr. Managh finished .37 seconds behind the Western Ontario runner.

In the 3000, Brych brought home the gold with a 9:56. The three-medal performance was enough to earn her an honourable mention as Female Athlete of the Meet.

The day was capped by the electrifying 4 x 8, which put the third-ranked Vikes up against last year's national champions. McGill had returned three of four runners from the previous season and were running behind a boisterous hometown audience at a soldout McGill Fieldhouse. That would be enough of an advantage to edge UVic out at the line, although only by a couple of strides.

While the meet marked the end of a long season for Victoria's middle-distance running team, for Brych and Mills, the biggest events of the season await.

Brych will travel with the national cross country team to Ireland this weekend to compete in the World Championship. The 29-year-old was selected to the team after Courtenay native Danel Kabush was sidelined with an injury earlier this season.

On April 6, Mills and Brych will represent Canada at the Seoul Ekiden—a 26-mile team relay which is one of Asia's largest sporting events. Mills was added to the seven women roster this week.

"I'm so excited," said Mills. "I've heard for the last month that I was one out of six girls up to place in the last two spots."

The size of the event alone is enough to make it one of the most enjoyable experiences in the two veteran career runners.

"They'll probably be viewed by millions in Asia, and the streets in Korea will just be packed with spectators," said Fougner.

After that, it's a short break, summer training and the defence of a CIAU national championship for the two. The team should be as strong next year, but they won't count on catching anyone off-guard.

"The University of Victoria is a name to beat," said Cocksedge. "It's been for the men for a long time, and now it is for the women too."

Men's indoor results

Five men qualified for the Indoor Nationals as well, but unfortunately, their results were less encouraging. Bruno Mazzotta ran a 8:27 to finish fourth in the 3000 metre event, and the men's 4 x 800 side finished 10th, far lower than they were expected to place. Although he didn't medal, Mazzotta's time was a personal best. He will travel to Ireland this weekend as well to compete in the Junior ranks at the World Championships.

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Falling apart in the final

by Walker MacLeod

The University of Victoria's women's basketball team's dream-season ended in a Sunday afternoon nightmare in Thunder Bay. The heavily-favoured Vikes lost in the CIAU Championship Final to Canada West rival Alberta, a team they'd handled six of seven times earlier in the year.

The Alberta Pandas took home the gold with a 54-46 victory over Victoria in the nationally-broadcast contest from Lakehead University. The Vikes were seeded number one in the tournament after winning the West the previous weekend by taking two of three from the U of A. But when it matters most this season, the Pandas are at the top of the poll.

A quick start by the Vikes was countered by Alberta's dominance on the offensive glass, which gave UVic problems all day. The rebounding of second-team All-Canadian Jackie Simon staked the Pandas to a 21-14 lead at the mid-point of the opening half, before UVic cut the lead to 27-23 at the break.

But missed opportunities and careless mistakes by Victoria would prevent them from getting any closer in the second half. Key turnovers by Lindsay Anderson and Janet McLachlan in the later stages of the game, combined with some clutch free throws from Simon and Kristy Wiebe, clinched the victory for the Pandas.

"We gave up too many second shots," commented Vikes' coach Kathy Shields, whose squad was out-rebounded 42-31 on the afternoon. "I thought that our defense let them get away early, and we had to play catch-up."

Rebounding was not the only place where the Vikes struggled. The team shot a meagre 27 per cent from the floor, which obviously didn't get the job done in a championship final.

Rebounding was not the only place where the Vikes struggled. The team shot a meagre 27 per cent from the floor.

Joanna Holdsworth missed three open treys in the first half, and the Vikes finished 2/12 from three-point-land after twenty minutes.

Janet McLachlan led UVic with 12 points, after being held pointless in the first half by the stifling defense of Simon. In the game's pivotal minutes she was the only Vike who could drain a jumper from the field.

Still, it was a game dominated by Alberta's two Canada West all-stars, Rania Burns and Simon.

"I thought Jackie and Rania did a great job inside," said Alberta coach Trix Baker, who was celebrating her first CIAU championship. "We took away their penetration and made them [try to] hit from the outside."

UVic had advanced to the final after a 65-43 white-washing of Concordia in the opening round and then a 58-46 triumph over New Brunswick in their semi-final.

Although a year away, it would not be surprising to see the same teams hook up for a return engagement in the final next season. Alberta loses only one player this off-season, while the Vikes' only expected departure is forward Lily Blair. Next March, Alberta will host the eight-team tournament.

Kim Oslund, Lily Blair, Kim Johnson and Lindsay Brooke prepare for an in-bounds pass in Thunder Bay. The Vikes lost 54-46 to the Alberta Pandas in the championship final.
photo contributed by Rob Linke

Petelski primed for Spring Nationals

UVic swimmer Christin Petelski will try to qualify for the Pan-Pacific Championships and Pan-Am Games this weekend

Petelski and teammates will be competing in the Spring Nationals at the Commonwealth Pool this Thusday through Sunday. A complete schedule of events and race times are available at the site.
photos contributed by Darren Stone

by Craig Battle

At this very moment, chances are Christin Petelski is in one of five places. If she isn't working diligently in a UVic classroom, making waves in the McKinnon or Commonwealth Pools or lying under the capable hands of her masseuse Marcel, she's likely to be in bed, taking a well-deserved nap. With the Spring Nationals swimming tryouts close at hand, she has time for little else.

But having swum competitively since she was 11, the fourth-year student/athlete has been through this all before.

A two-week break in September was all Petelski needed to gap the Commonwealth Games and this year's Vikes' swimming season.

"You kind of have to enjoy it to be in the water for two-and-a-half hours at a time," said Petelski, who remains the usual favourite for being the first swimmer on deck before workouts. "There have been times when I've hated it, but that's probably when I'm too stressed out."

By 14, she was on a schedule of 11 workouts per week with the "A" group of the Island Swim Club—the national-level group. Her social life suffered because of it.

"Any friends I had were with the swim team, and so we all hung out on the weekends. We knew that none of us could really go out because we had practice early in the morning, or we had a tough week ahead of us."

Not surprisingly, her dedication soon paid off. At 18, Christin earned a spot on the Canadian Olympic team bound for Atlanta, and at 20, she was placed on the national squad set for the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia. Today, at 21, she is ranked 21st in the world by *Swim News* magazine in the 200-metre breast stroke. Only two Canadians are ranked higher.

But she pays little attention to rankings or press clippings, refusing to judge herself by how she compares to other swimmers.

"I've never really been into that," she said. "It's more what I accomplish myself for myself."

Christin's former swim coach, Ron Jacks of Island Swimming, believes that her only fault is that she often expects too much from herself.

"Christin's quite the perfectionist about what she does and how she goes about doing things," said Jacks. "She sometimes gets down with things that are beyond her control."

For that she thanks her parents, who were both "big-time" athletes in high school.

"[My parents are] awesome. Anything that I got into they would never let me quit," she said. "I think that influenced me in later years—I was really dedicated to what I wanted to do and could be more focused."

Swimming is definitely a family affair for the Petelskis. Christin's younger sister, Regan, was also a national qualifier in the 400-metre individual medley at the '96 Olympic trials.

With the Spring Nationals at Commonwealth Pool this weekend, Christin looks forward to earning the chance to represent the red and white again—this time at the Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg and at the Pan-Pacs in Australia.

But Petelski down-plays the importance of big events such as the one this weekend.

"I think that's what a lot of people get caught up in—just thinking, 'Oh it's such a big deal,' when it doesn't have to be," she said. "I think being a little bit nervous is probably the better thing. You're more in-tune with what you have to do."

Christin now looks forward to a packed summer highlighted by another huge international and, sigh, more training. She may even take on a summer job—to keep herself busy. Or maybe not. Atlanta 2000 is, after all, only a year away.

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• On-Campus •

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Involved in a Potential Legal Problem? Visit the Legal Information Clinic offered by the students of the Faculty of Law. Tues., 12:30 to 1:30, Wed., 5 to 7p.m., Thurs., 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Rm 125 Begbie Building. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

Past Lives, Dreams and Soul Travel Workshop. March 22, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the SUB Multi-Purpose Room. All welcome.

Resistance Theatre presents "Child and Sweat," a play about the growing global practice of child slave labour & sweatshops. March 20, Grad Lounge at 8p.m. $5 waged/$4 unwaged. Contact eqoutthere@hotmail.com for info.

Join the Jewish Students' Association. We get together regularly to socialize and to explore cultural, political, religious and spiritual issues from a Jewish perspective. We welcome Jews of all backgrounds: secular, religious, conservative, liberal, matrilineal, patrilineal, single and married, straight and queer. Call 370-9488 for details, location or e-mail <jewish@uvic.ca>. For more info visit <http://web.uvic.ca/~jewish>.

A journey through Chile. Slide show of a recent vacation. Wednesday, March 24 at 3:30 in Clearihue A301.

Spanish & Italian year end party. Live Cuban music & dancing. Door prizes, cookbook & food. Thursday, April 1, 7p.m. at the Grad Lounge. $3 cover.

MEXICANOS! Come and participate in the "International Consultation for the Recognition of the Rights of the Indian Peoples and for an End to the War of Extermination." Voting booths will be set up in the SUB on Monday, March 22, from 11a.m. to 5p.m. For more information call 472-6465.

* Off-Campus *

Bowling Night with UVic BCYL-Come out & bowl with some students, you'll have a great time. March 20 at 7:30p.m. at Mayfair Lanes. Two games & all the pizza you can eat for only $11. Call Frank @ 478-5908 or Jen @ 388-0603.

Everyone's invited to celebrate in the Inner Harbour for the "International Day for the Excluded of the World," Sunday, March 21, starting at 5p.m.

Check out the Warrior Women Artists Collective's Exhibit at the G Spot, 1910 Store Street. March 21 from noon to 5p.m. All welcome.

Announcements

Come to the Inter-Cultural Association's International Garage Sale on Saturday, March 27 from 9a.m. to 3p.m. & Sunday, March 28 from noon to 3p.m. at 930 Balmoral Street. For more info call Cristina at 388-4728.

GirlFutures Associations presents a spring series of free workshops for girls. Topics range from creative writing & theatre to women in sports and healthy vegetarian eating. Workshops are designed for girls 10-16 and are offered on alternating Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30p.m. & Saturdays from 1:00-3:00p.m., at the James Bay Youth Centre. Call 386-1179 for more information.

Learn how to help through listening. Volunteer & make a difference by attending a NEED Crisis & Information Line Information Session. The next sessions are Monday, March 22 & Monday, March 29. Please call Zoë Chicoine @ 386-6328.

Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society is looking for volunteers to help with home help, driving and respite care. Volunteers are trained in issues specific to providing care for people with HIV. Call 388-6220.

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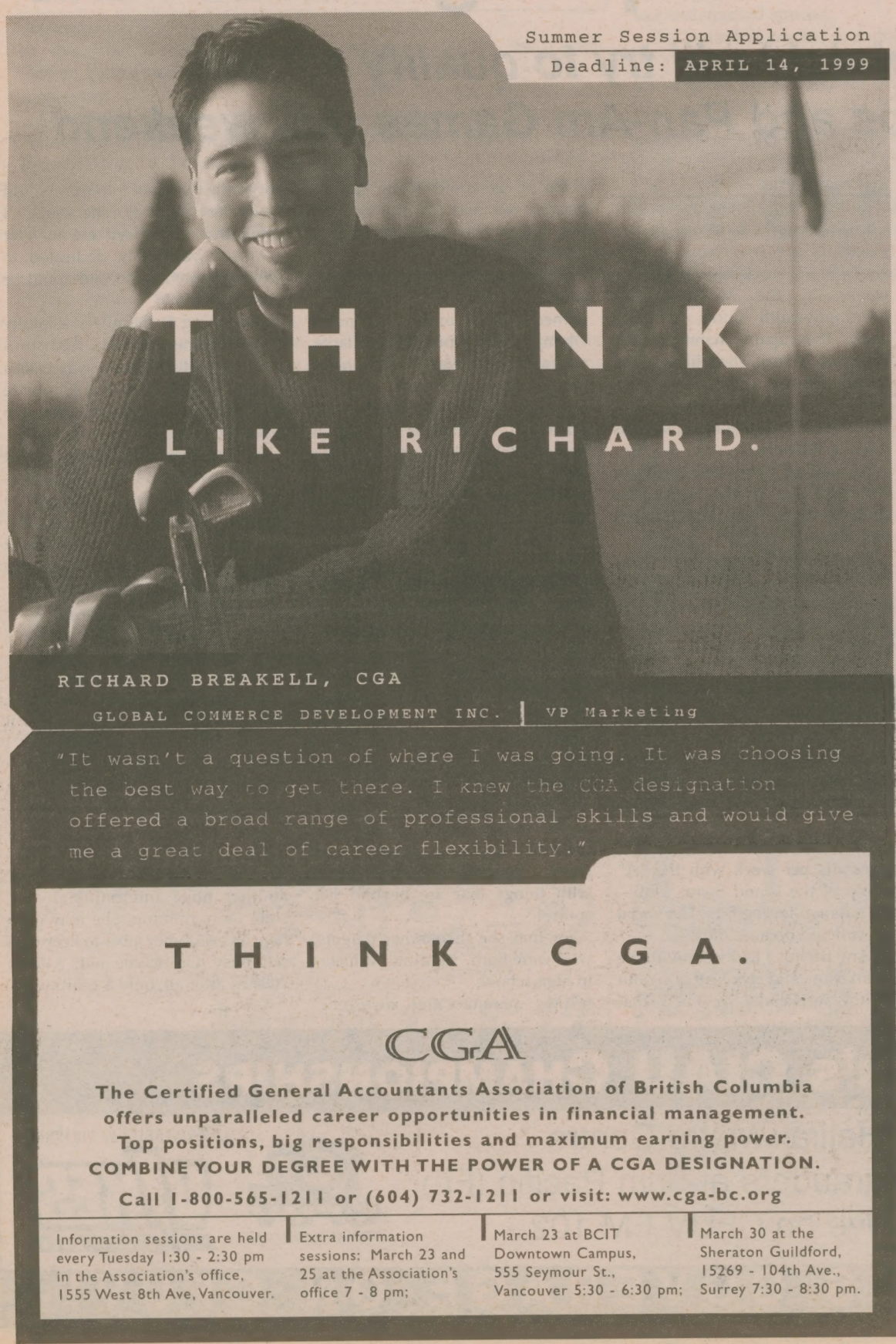
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Information sessions are held every Tuesday 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the Association's office, 1555 West 8th Ave, Vancouver.
Extra information sessions: March 23 and 25 at the Association's office 7 - 8 pm;
March 23 at BCIT Downtown Campus, 555 Seymour St., Vancouver 5:30 - 6:30 pm;
March 30 at the Sheraton Guildford, 15269 - 104th Ave., Surrey 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

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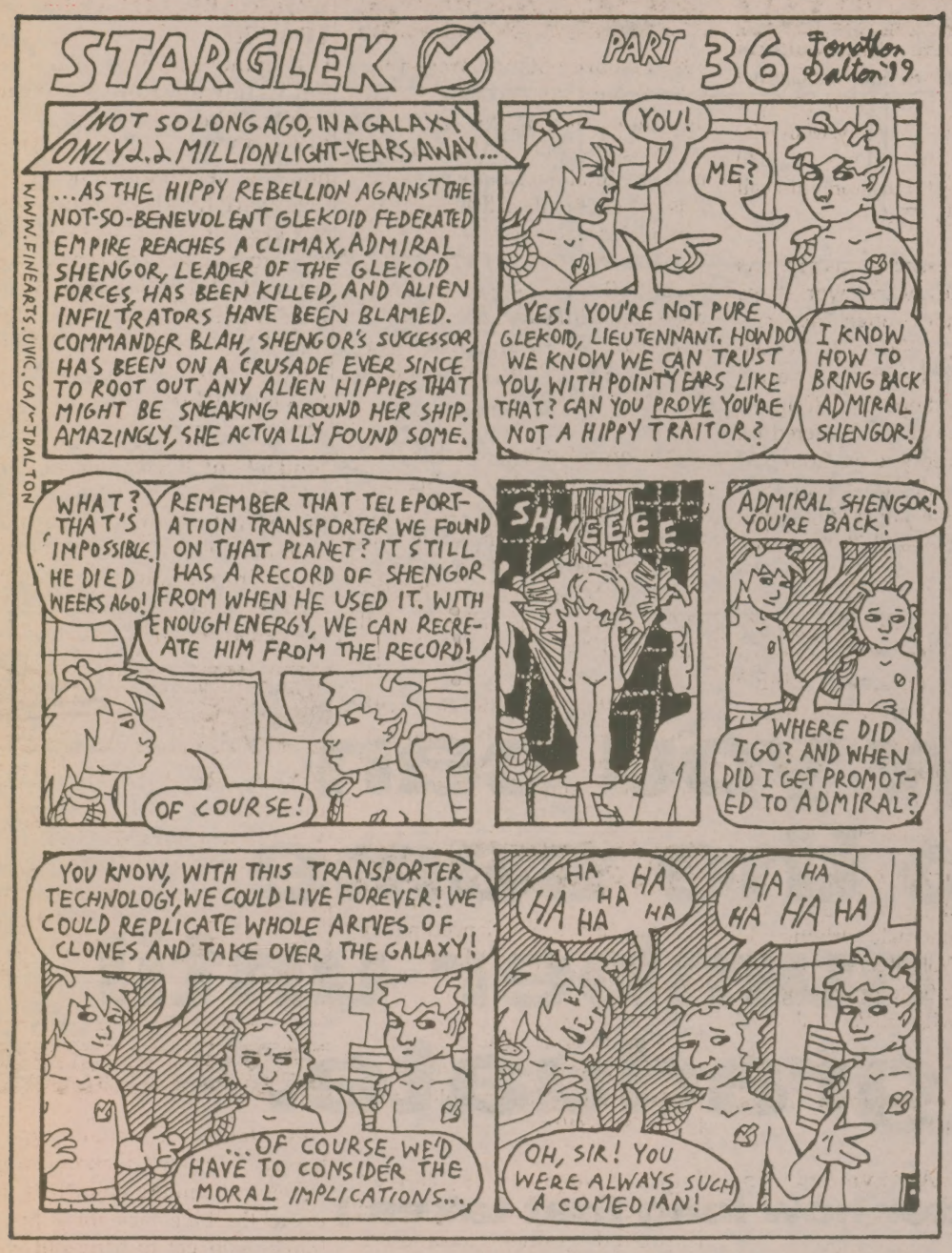
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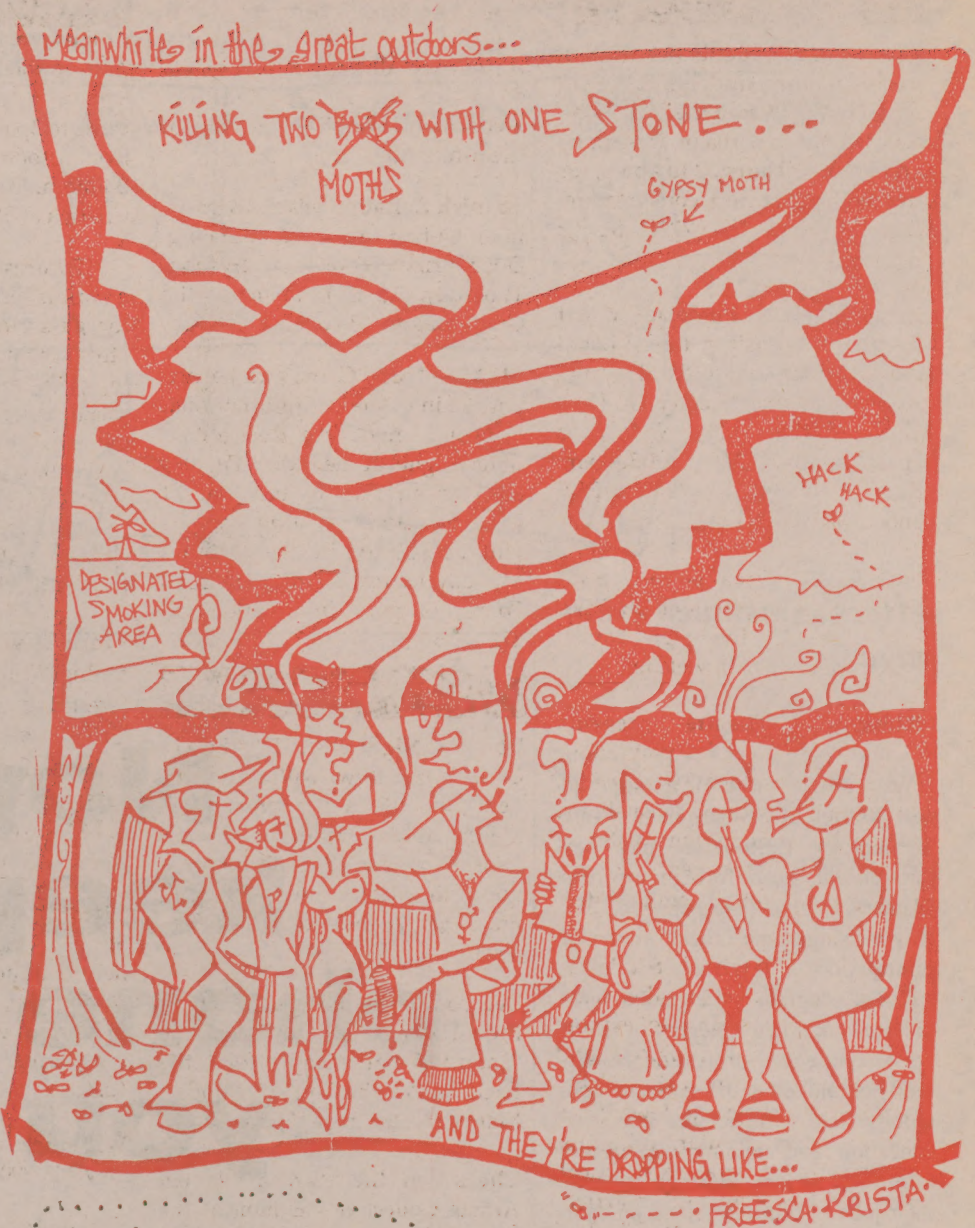
I KNOW HOW TO BRING BACK ADMIRAL SHENGOR!
WHAT? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. HE DIED WEEKS AGO!
REMEMBER THAT TELEPORTATION TRANSPORTER WE FOUND ON THAT PLANET? IT STILL HAS A RECORD OF SHENGOR FROM WHEN HE USED IT. WITH ENOUGH ENERGY, WE CAN RECREATE HIM FROM THE RECORD!
OF COURSE!
SHWEEEE
ADMIRAL SHENGOR! YOU'RE BACK!
WHERE DID I GO? AND WHEN DID I GET PROMOTED TO ADMIRAL?
YOU KNOW, WITH THIS TRANSPORTER TECHNOLOGY, WE COULD LIVE FOREVER! WE COULD REPLICATE WHOLE ARMIES OF CLONES AND TAKE OVER THE GALAXY!
...OF COURSE, WE'D HAVE TO CONSIDER THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS...
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
OH, SIR! YOU WERE ALWAYS SUCH A COMEDIAN!



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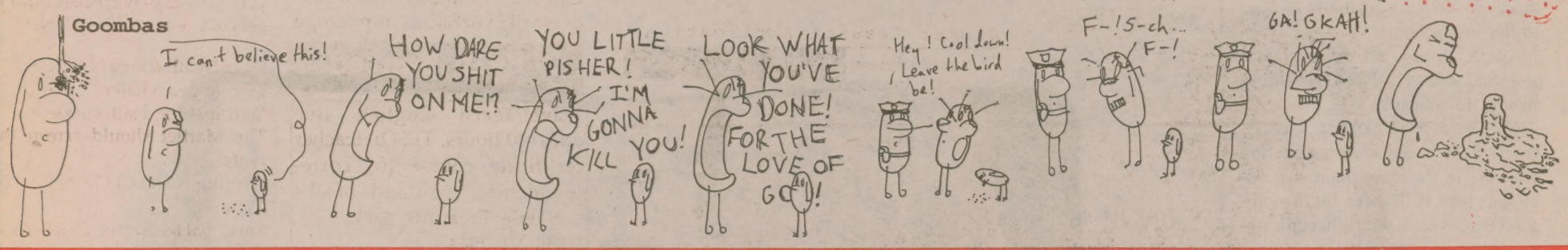
Goombas
I can't believe this!
HOW DARE YOU SHIT ON ME!?
YOU LITTLE PISHER! I'M GONNA KILL YOU!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! FOR THE LOVE OF GO!
Hey! Cool down! Leave the bird be!
F-!5-ch... F-!
GA! GKAH!

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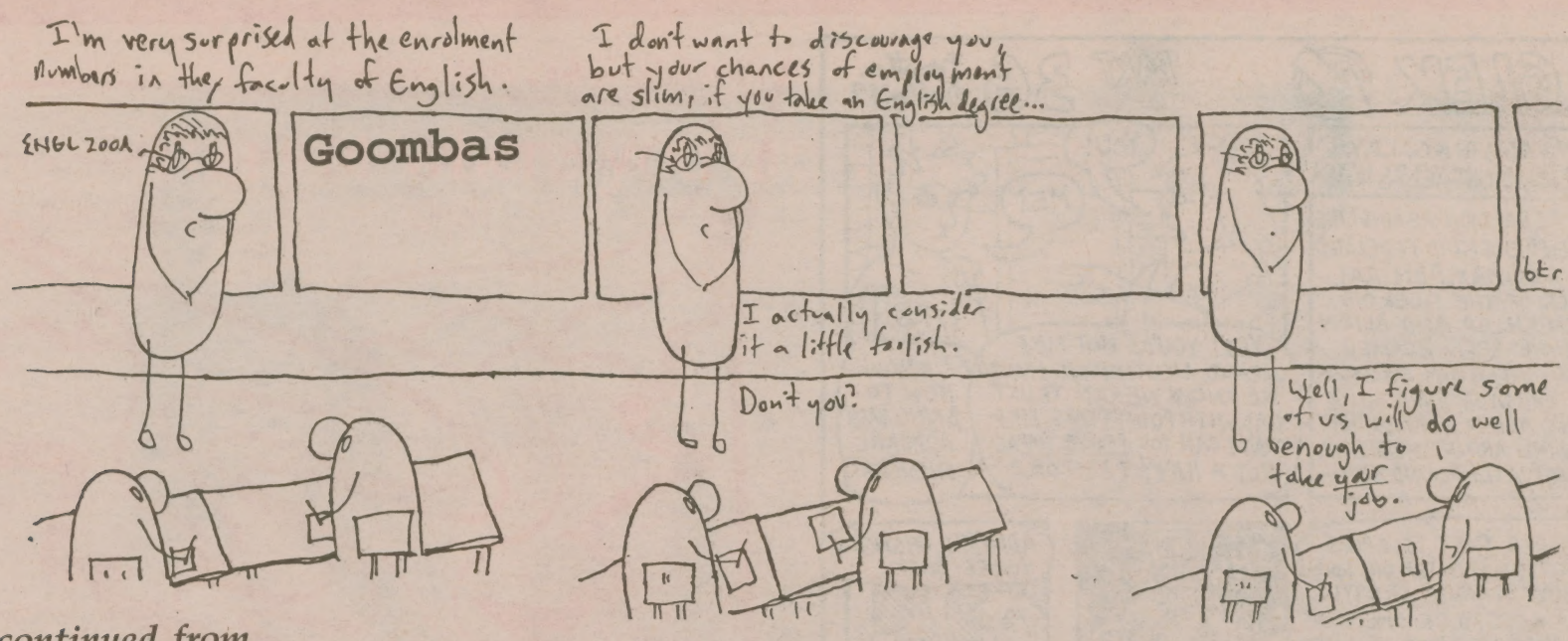
I'm very surprised at the enrolment numbers in the faculty of English.
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Goombas
I don't want to discourage you, but your chances of employment are slim, if you take an English degree...
I actually consider it a little foolish.
Don't you?
Well, I figure some of us will do well enough to take your job.
btr

letters continued from page 9

Editors,

Your article on UVic's proposed new Master of Science in Software Technology ("Students may pay through the nose for controversial Master's degree" Martlet, Feb. 25), was missing some crucial pieces of information.

(i) The program is designed to meet the needs of a new category of learners - experienced professionals, currently employed in the software technology field, who require advanced education and training, yet cannot afford to absent themselves from their jobs in order to attend on-campus classes. The new program provides intensive courses delivered at work sites and through other distance education delivery methods such as on-line instruction.

(ii) After three years, the program is projected to have a total UVic enrollment of 15 students.

(iii) There is an existing master's program in software engineering available in the more traditional on-campus format. The fee for this program is consistent with other on-campus programs.

(iv) The new program is being offered on a cost-recovery basis. The costs of its more expensive delivery methods are borne by the students enrolled in the program who could not afford to leave their workplace for a year and relocate to Victoria (often with families). The $12,000 cost of the program is a fraction of what it would cost them in lost income and relocation expenses if they were forced to quit their jobs in order to attend on-campus program. Bursary assistance is available to those who find the program fee a burden.

(v) Rather than take resources away from existing programs, the new Master's will provide a modest net revenue to UVic (about $125 per student per course) which will be used to support on-campus programs offered by the Department of Computer Science through items such as additional teaching assistant hours. This would also be the source of bursary funds.

(vi) The program proposal has been developed over three years. At each stage graduate students were involved and their input has been extremely valuable in shaping the program proposal.

If approved by the provincial government, the program would be offered by UVic in a consortium with several other Western Canadian universities. This would allow students to tap the combined expertise of several institution, none of which could offer the program on its own.

—Gordana Lazarevich, Ph.D
Professor,
and Dean of Graduate Studies

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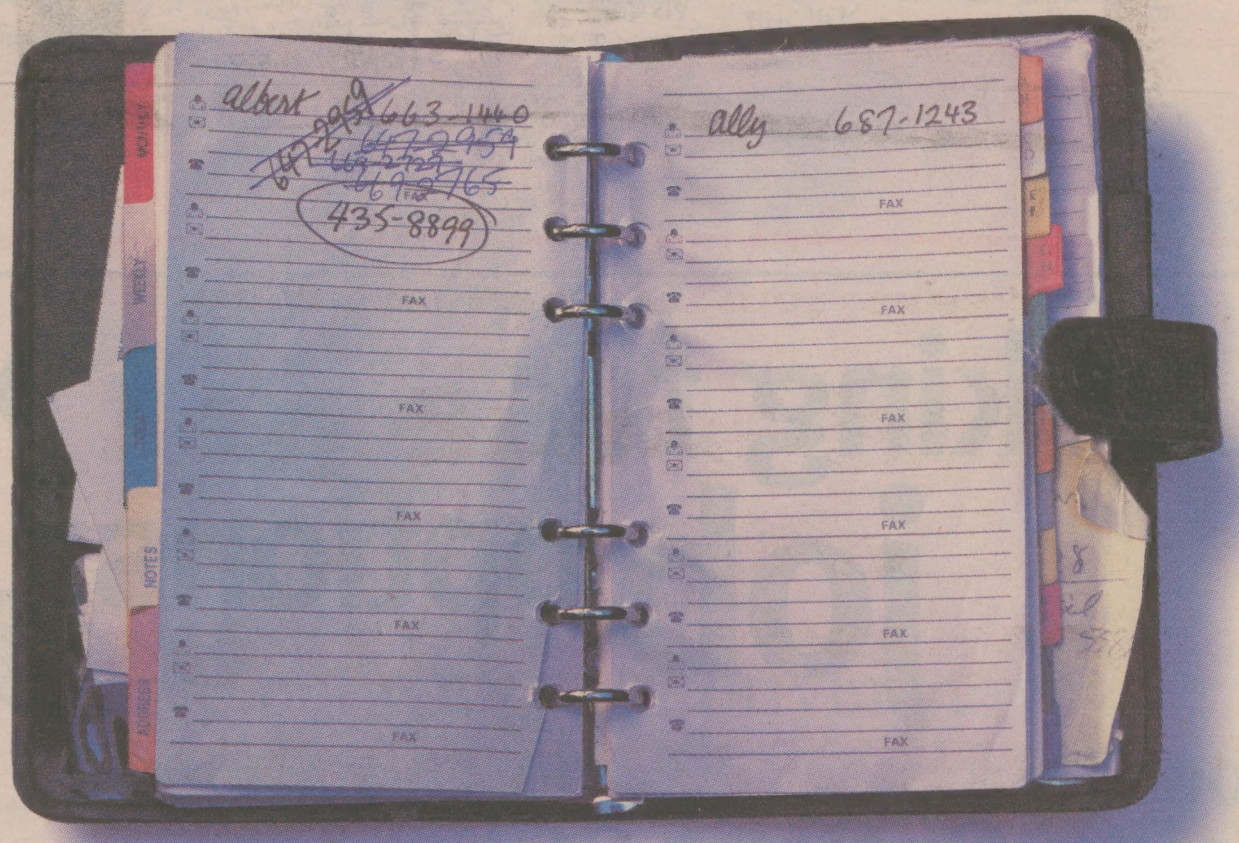

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